

North Orange County Community College District

Keeping a districtwide Strategic Enrollment Plan moving from the page into practice



HIGHERDIGITAL®

At-a-Glance

Client: North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD): Cypress College, Fullerton College, and North Orange Continuing Education

Focus: Sustaining implementation of a five-year Strategic Enrollment Plan

Solution: Strategic Portfolio Management (SPM), delivered on the (SEA)results® platform

Higher Digital Services: Action team facilitation + Progress tracking + Executive and board reporting

Key Metrics



100

Action items tracked across 7 cross-college action teams



13% → 35%

Average completion in one quarter (April to July 2026)



6 KPIs

Baselines set; first annual results due in 2026–27

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More than the tool, the partnership has been the most impactful piece.

- Gabrielle Stanco, PhD

District Director, Research, Planning and Data Strategy
NOCCCD

CHALLENGES



Keeping the plan off the shelf. The district had a strong five-year plan. The risk was losing steam once the planning was done and daily work took over.

One plan, three institutions. Cypress College, Fullerton College, and North Orange Continuing Education each have their own priorities, staff, and ways of working.

Two audiences. Action team members needed focused conversations about the work. Executives and trustees needed clear reporting on progress.

SOLUTION



Higher Digital works alongside the district's own implementation lead to keep the plan moving, serving both audiences: the people doing the work and the leaders who need to see it.



Guide Conversations



Track the Work



Report to Leaders

WHAT CHANGED



1

Better communication

Action teams provide stakeholders an opportunity to discuss priorities, progress, and challenges across all three institutions.

2

More automation

Colleges are replacing manual steps with connected systems, from CRM campaigns to orientation workflows.

3

Stronger coordination

Colleges are aligning around shared goals, including a districtwide Enrollment Summit and shared scheduling standards.

4

Progress leaders can see

The district can track and report real progress to executives and trustees, and use it to guide funding and decisions.

RELEVANCE



- Worried your enrollment plan will sit on a shelf once the planning is done?
- Trying to keep work moving across colleges with limited staff time?
- Asked to show your board real progress, not just activity?

This **work shows how to keep a plan moving and show real progress** without adding burden on staff.

IMPACT (Plain Language)



Higher Digital helped NOCCCD **keep its Strategic Enrollment Plan moving** after the planning was done. Guided action team meetings keep the focus on the work, not the technical details, and help teams **identify and address barriers** across all three institutions.

In the first months, average completion across 100 action items **rose from 13% to 35%**. District leaders can now **show trustees real progress**.

With baselines set for the plan's enrollment KPIs, **the first year of results is next**.

LESSONS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES



Local ownership matters

A district lead who owns the work makes it the district's initiative, not something consultants impose.

Plan for people, not just process

Bringing stakeholders together takes the most time. Secure campus and executive buy-in early.

This is not project management

The focus is progress across the whole plan and every institution, not task schedules.

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CLIENT PERSPECTIVES



“The managed services piece has been key for us. More than the tool, **the partnership has been the most impactful piece.**”

- Gabrielle Stanco, PhD, District Director, Research, Planning and Data Strategy

“The goal is the **implementation of the district strategic enrollment plan**. The goal isn't teaching people how to input data into the platform.”

“The ability to customize, and not be locked into Higher Digital's vision of what our data reporting should look like, **has been one of the most valuable parts of the program.**”

- James (Jim) Bunker, PhD, District Strategic Enrollment Plan Implementation Lead



About Higher Digital

Higher Digital **helps colleges and universities operate better** inside the systems they already have. We **specialize in embedding governance, financial discipline, and execution capability** directly into day-to-day operations... so progress doesn't rely on heroics or workarounds.