

Renaming the College of Extended Education & Global Engagement

Introduction

Just four years after the Humboldt Normal School was founded in 1913, the school joined universities across the country in creating an extension department. Humboldt's initial goal was to extend the reach of the campus through summer and correspondence courses, and a year later, pioneering field experiences that would aid and improve instruction at rural and village schools. Over the course of these 108 years since that first extension department, the extension arm of the campus has maintained the mission of expanding the reach of university expertise beyond the main Humboldt campus.

The narrow focus on improving rural schools broadened as the Humboldt Normal School became Humboldt State University and then Cal Poly Humboldt (CPH), and as a 21st century education required the now College of Extended Education & Global Engagement (CEEGE) to extend university expertise and engagement locally, statewide, nationally and internationally.

Name Change

As extension departments grew and educational needs changed, so did the names of such units. Often, the name changes sought to reflect the addition of educational focus or ways of reaching students. At Humboldt, the unit has been Summer Session, Extension, Extended Education, the Office of Distance and Extended Education, the College of eLearning & Extended Education, and now the College of Extended Education & Global Engagement. In conversations with the current CEEGE team, Academic Affairs leadership, and campus faculty, the college name is seen as bulky, while its acronym comes with battle imagery that does not match the work of the college nor does it reflect the culture of this campus community.

With a foundational mission unchanged in over 100 years, this proposal will bring the college back to its roots as the College of Extension (COE). This name change also better allows for the creation of an organizational structure recognizable in a college with departments like Global Engagement, Academic Programs and Lifelong Learning. When new programs are added and needs and approaches change again, as they will, the College of Extension can create new units rather than expanding the name of the college to incorporate these new areas in the college name.