CLASSIFIED STAFF NEEDS ASSESSMENT APPLICATION
Fall 2016

Name of Person Submitting Request:	**Michael Lysak**			
Program or Service Area:	**Physics/Astronomy/Engineering**			
Division:	**Science**			
Date of Last Program Efficacy:	**Spring 2016**			
What rating was given?	**Conditional**			
Current Number of Classified Staff:	FT:	**1**	PT:	**1**
Position Requested:	**Replacement of the Planetarium Specialist**			
Strategic Initiatives Addressed: (See http://www.valleycollege.edu/about-sbvc/office-of-president/college_planning_documents/documents/strategic-plan-report-working-doc-8-25-15-2.pdf)	Student Success; Communication, Culture, & Climate			

Replacement ☐X Growth ☐

If you checked replacement, when was the position vacated? ____Spring 2017_____

1. Provide a rationale for your request. (Explain, in detail, the need for this position.)

At the end of Spring 2017, the Planetarium Specialist will be retiring; as there is uncertain replacement for this position, this will create a tremendous loss: there will be no vital planetarium services available for astronomy lecture and/or lab instruction, none available for other physical science instructors or for other disciplines, and no planetarium shows, tours, or presentations available for the many schools and individuals of our local community. On average, the Planetarium presently serves in excess of 3000 elementary, middle school, and high school students yearly; the Planetarium also directly supports the Astronomy program by providing and preparing class demonstrations/presentations, and assisting in Astronomy laboratory needs. The Planetarium is clearly a most valuable academic resource and provides vital community outreach activities, and its importance to the academic programs at SBVC and to the local community cannot be understated; it is vital that this position be replaced, and in a timely manner, in order that the retiring Planetarium Specialist will have the opportunity to help train his successor.

2. Indicate how the content of the department/program's latest Efficacy Report and/or current EMP supports this request and how the request is tied to program planning. *(Directly reference the relevant information from your latest Efficacy Report and/or current EMP in your discussion.)*

According to the EMP for Physics/Astronomy, some of the program goals/challenges/action plans are: replace the Planetarium specialist to maintain the Planetarium programs and outreach activities; and upgrade the Physics Lab Tech position to full-time, and train the lab tech in all operations of the Planetarium. The Physics/Astronomy 2016 Program Efficacy document states (pg. 28) that "Planetarium shows have been presented throughout each academic year for the general public, for elementary and secondary school programs, for various SBVC physical sciences classes, for various SBVC groups/programs/organizations, and for special outside groups/programs. For the past four years, from September 2011-May 2015, the average combined

yearly audience of the Planetarium shows has been approximately 3858 with an average yearly income of $3726; the department plans to continue this most valuable outreach program.

Following the public shows, the N.A. Richardson Observatory has also been opened to provide views of the Moon and planets, with an average yearly total of approximately 250 people attending the viewings. This is the oldest observatory in the valley and contains a very historic telescope.

The planetarium has participated in and presented shows for many of the "Science Day" activities, and will continue to do so.

The planetarium instrument was professionally serviced recently to ensure its successful, continued operation for both academic and public outreach purposes.

Given the myriad services that the Planetarium provides under the guidance of the Planetarium Specialist, it is clear that the Planetarium is clearly a most valuable academic resource, it provides vital community outreach activities, and it is of paramount importance to the academic programs at SBVC and to the local community. Further, since the Physics/Astronomy department program has rapidly grown and expanded, if the department is to maintain quality instruction, to successfully plan for future enrollment increases, and to meet the continuing need of the Planetarium programs and services for our college classes as well as for other various academic and community outreach activities, we must replace the Planetarium Specialist position.

3. Indicate any additional information you want the committee to consider *(for example, regulatory information, compliance, updated efficiency, student success data, planning, etc.).*

As stated in the 2016 Program Efficacy document (pg. 23), the productivity of the Physics/Astronomy department has grown significantly from a WSCH/Faculty Load ratio low of 591 (2011-12), peaked at 643 (2013-14), and decreased to 599 (2014-15); according to the EMP for Physics/Astronomy, the WSCH/FTEF ratio was nearly unchanged at 597. For 2015-16, the department's Success rate was 76%, and its Retention rate was 90%; these rates have, in fact, moderately increased over the years. As student populations increase, to maintain or improve both the success and retention rates, clearly there will be a need for the department to offer more lecture and lab sections, and as an additional full-time faculty will be important in filling that need, so too will there be a strong need for a Planetarium Specialist to run the Planetarium and to support and maintain the quality of lecture/lab instruction. Finally, in Fall of 2016, the Science Division has ranked this Classified Staff Needs request as #2 out of six requests.

4. What are the consequences of not filling this position?

At the end of Spring 2017, the Planetarium Specialist will be retiring; as there is uncertain replacement for this position, this will create a tremendous loss: there will be no vital planetarium services available for astronomy lecture and/or lab instruction, none available for other physical science instructors or for other disciplines, and no planetarium shows, tours, or presentations available for the many schools and individuals of our local community. In light of increasing numbers of Physics/Astronomy lecture and lab sections, without proper support from resources such as provided by the Planetarium Specialist, high quality instruction for our students would not be possible, and such lack of support stifles successful attempts of program growth, development and expansion, and negatively impacts enrollments, and, ultimately, productivity. Finally, with the retirement of the Planetarium Specialist at the end of Spring 2017, without a replacement to assume the responsibilities of the Planetarium Specialist, a most vital academic resource and a most important community outreach tool will be lost.