apply economics to their everyday life, and are better able to interpret economic news from sources such as The Wall Street Journal and the local newspapers and media. In addition by “thinking on the margin” and taking into account opportunity costs, students understand how to make good choices, and utilize critical thinking to make better decisions throughout their lives. They also understand why it’s important to save for retirement at their young age, for example. Perhaps as one possible quantitative tool, the success of the Economics program can be shown by the number of students who complete the AA or AA-T degree in Economics. Because the AA-T in Economics is relatively new, only one semester of data has been gathered; but this is a variable that the Economics department intends to track carefully in the years ahead.

24. How have the program’s assessments and discussions produced a positive impact for student success? Please share your success stories.

Up until last year, SLOs were assessed every Spring semester, and reviewed and discussed among Economics faculty in Fall. As a result of discussions among the faculty, ideas, strategies and techniques for effective teaching of economics and improving student learning have been shared.

Among our success stories are the many students who have chosen to focus on Economics as they pursue their education at a 4-year university. In addition, students have contacted our faculty expressing their appreciation of the quality of instruction and their interaction with faculty. The following are examples of messages we have received:

- “I wish I would have met you years ago because that encounter inspired me to expand my dream of what I could accomplish with my education…thanks for seeing something in me.”

- “I still talk about how great your class was. Seven years of 4.0s and its still the one I am most proud of.”

- “Thank you again for this amazing semester in Econ. I haven’t studied this much for any of my classes before but it was absolutely worth it.”

- “I wanted to thank you for being so good with keeping in touch with all the students. I have taken many other online classes and other instructors are not half as good as communicating with the students as you are.” (from a student in an online class)

25. Based on the assessment results and your department’s discussions, please explain why the program thinks students are, or are not, achieving the outcomes. What changes has the program made or is it planning to make to improve student