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Community College Library 2030 Focus Group Protocol

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Community College Library 2030 Backcasting Focus Group Questions

Participant-specific variations of the following questions were used in focus groups with students, faculty, staff, administrators, and librarians at BMCC in 2016-17.

OPENING

- When was the last time you used a library (any library—could be physical or website, public or HS/college)? (give examples)

INTRODUCTORY

- Thinking back to when you were in high school (or further back to elementary or middle school), what was your experience with the library at your school(s)? Okay to say “I never used a library in school.”
- What do you use the BMCC Library or other libraries for now?

TRANSITION

- How would you describe the role of the BMCC library today in your life as a student/administrator/staff/faculty member?
- Faculty and staff here at BMCC talk a lot about student success. How do you define success for yourself/for our students here at BMCC?
- Thinking about your life as a whole, what do you/students need to be successful at BMCC? What are some of the barriers or challenges to your/students being successful at BMCC?

BACKCASTING (KEY)

The premise of this backcasting exercise is based on prior research indicating that the community college library in 2016/17 is not essential to student, faculty, and institutional success, that to a greater or lesser extent the library is peripheral. Thus the goal is to look forward to 2030 and imagine what it would be like if the library *were* central to student, faculty, and institutional success.

- In 2030, what services and activities will the library provide that will make it essential in your success as a student?
- In order to meet our goal in 2030 that the library be central to success at BMCC, what would the library need to change or do? What steps would need to be taken?
- What barriers do you foresee in achieving the goal?

ENDING

- What is the one most significant change or action the library could take right now to start on the path to the goal of being essential to your success if you were a student in 2030?
- Is there anything that we missed in the discussion? Any thoughts or ideas not on the table that should be?