Ashland Community & Technical College
HIGHER EDUCATION BEGINS HERE

Title III: Closing the Educational Gap

PEOPLE PLACES + NEWS

September 30, 2009

Issue 5

As the leaves begin to fall, and we are mid-way through the semester, it's time to look at what's been happening in the Title III group. While each area has been very busy, we are looking forward to the Data Analyst joining the group and adding a new dynamic. Applications are coming in as the hiring process gets underway. Perhaps this time next month we'll have a new name to add to the list.

ADVISING

As autumn rapidly approaches, so too does spring semester, 2010. Pre-registration for spring semester will begin in early October and to prepare advisors, Advisor Update Training was conducted in the Student Success Center the week of September 21 - 25. Several faculty and staff advisors attended the training which included topics such as the transfer of CATS students to major and program advisors as well as PeopleSoft instruction in student self-enrollment and the updated Academic Advising website. To assist in the advising process, Advisor Trac software will be available to schedule advisee appointments. Our goal is to pre-register as many currently enrolled students as possible in order to lighten the load during the first week in January when we will have only one week of regular registration. Many thanks to the advisors who are working diligently to improve our academic advising process!

An in-house AdvisorTrac training session was held with Jason Shields at the helm. We enjoyed a larger-than-expected turn out for the initial training session on September 22, and anticipate additional sessions soon. Jason has written tutorials, which we plan to have available in the very near future.

Jason continues to work with the Associate Dean for Advising and Retention and others on the online orientation project that will assist in meeting the needs of our incoming students. We are all looking forward to seeing how it turns out.

PEER MENTORING & GE 100

Initial evaluation of the peer mentors and peer mentoring process was conducted this month and the results have been very favorable. Session visits, combined with student comments indicate that the peer mentor process has been beneficial to our new students. One student writes, "I love the peer mentoring program." Another student states, "The best thing about my Intro to College class and having a peer mentor is always having someone to ask if I need help." Because of the positive feedback, peer mentors visited GE 101 classrooms this month to invite students enrolled in those classes to the peer mentor sessions conducted in conjunction with the GE 100 classes. Peer mentors are involved in active learning techniques, and implementing these techniques in their sessions to enhance student interaction. The mentors also have been very beneficial in helping students to be aware of the college services and programs available to them at ACTC.

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION

September saw some exciting activities in the Supplemental Instruction component of the grant. The S. I. Leaders participated in a Blackboard training session with Jason, Becky and the S.I. Leaders continue to work on new techniques to open and close sessions, mid-term surveys were sent to participating classes, and attendance is steadily increasing from week-to-week. We are looking ahead to piloting the English 101 and 102 classes in the fall semester, 2010. All-in-all, it has been an exciting and busy month for Supplemental Instruction!

"Tell me, and I forget; show me, and I remember; involve me, and I understand." - Chinese Proverb

Title III Team

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