

Title III – Pathways to Graduation Project Monthly Progress Report

Grant Year: 2016-2017

Month: November

Year Two - Activity Objectives:

- Design cohort two Gateway Courses and toolkit
- Pilot enhanced assessment and analytics
- Pilot Completion Coaching
- Pilot Learning Commons
- Pilot cohort one Gateway Courses
- Evaluate progress in Year 2 and modify plan

In November, we made significant progress towards achieving the PGP Year two objectives. Renovation of Learning Commons was fully completed with the addition of new furniture for students and staff. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on November 17th. The college administration and faculty attended the ceremony. The Learning Commons has become a space for collaborative learning where students could receive tutoring for a wide range of subjects, meet with a completion coach, or use technology for their academic work. In addition, the Learning Commons iTeach Lab serves as a gathering workspace for faculty to collaborate and develop new tools and strategies to transform teaching and learning. We have expanded student support beyond our expectations and the PGP objectives. Other highlights and tangible results of Year 2 activities include:

1. Gateway Courses and Digital Toolkits

The faculty teaching cohort two Gateway Courses continued their work on virtual supplements to enhance student learning. To make this material easily accessible by students with disabilities, special attention was paid to implementing the Universal Design Learning framework in these virtual toolkits. With support from the Instructional Design Librarian, instructors teaching gateway courses have already created responsive curricular materials and activities in their digital toolkits.

2. Starfish

Faculty members teaching cohort one Gateway Courses continued to use Starfish to monitor students' academic progress. In November, 26 flags were raised 19 students. Due to the fact that only a small portion of the college population is using Starfish, no referrals

were made. Coaches continued researching and learning new techniques that could be used to effectively assist flagged students. In an effort to make it easier for faculty to track student progress in Starfish, the coaches created a short manual on how to use Starfish. This manual has been well received by faculty members.

3. Completion Coaching

Completion Coaches continued to research the best practices and trends to improve their coaching strategies and techniques. To further their skills, coaches attended several on campus workshops including FERPA and BERT workshops, Coaching and Advising, and the StrengthsQuest training. In November, coaches assisted a total of 81 students. One of the major challenges that we have experienced in the coaching program is a significant increase in no-shows and assistance decline. In this month, 47 students failed to appear for their scheduled appointments. Currently, we do not have policy in place for dealing with no-shows.

4. Learning Commons

The usage of the Learning Commons continued to increase. Since we moved to a new location, we extended the hours of operations of the Learning Commons. To accommodate a very diverse student body, we were open Monday through Thursday from 7:30am until 8:00pm, Friday 7:30am until 7:00pm, Saturday from 10:00am until 2:00pm and Sunday from 11:00am until 5:00pm. The following table summarizes student usage of the Learning Commons during the month of November.

Academic Support	November 2017 [h]
Open Lab	360
Study Rooms	68
Math Lab	520
Self-Study	20
One-on-one Tutoring	680
Grand Total	1,648

5. The PGP Team Meeting

Due to schedule conflict, the PGP team did not meet this month.