

Title III – Pathways to Graduation Project Monthly Progress Report

Grant Year: 2015-2016

Month: August

Year One - Activity Objectives:

- Design enhanced assessment and analytics
- Design completion coaching model
- Hire three completion coaches, external evaluator, instructional design consultant
- Design/renovate Learning Commons
- Design digital toolkits for customization group one - English 101, Math 110, & Psychology 101
- Evaluate progress in Year 1 and modify plan

Some progress towards the achievement of the first year objectives has been made, however, the renovation of the Learning Commons is falling behind schedule. According to the contractor, the space will not be available before Labor Day. The Learning Commons staff has moved to the Library. The major activities of this month include: renovation of the Learning Commons, work on digital toolkits, Starfish integration and training.

1. Renovation of Learning Commons

Due to the fact that floor tiles, and office doors were on back order, the contractor did not manage to complete the Learning Commons by the end of this month. The following includes major construction activities that have been completed.

- Floor and ceiling installation
- Rubber base installation
- Light fixtures installed.
- Painting
- Occupancy and smoke detectors installed.
- Project Director, Activity Director, PGP architects, PGP contractor, and other college stakeholders continue to meet weekly to provide necessary input and review the renovation process.
- Project Director, Activity Director, and other college stakeholders met with the ROI representative and completed furniture selection for the Learning Commons.

Work needed to be completed next month: install doors, computer workstations, lockers, countertops, and glass panels.

2. Starfish Integration

The Installation Committee has continued to meet every Thursday to get the software ready for the Fall semester. All major components and protocols have been integrated and tested. Here are some activities that have been completed this month.

- Educational Technology staff provided a workshop on Starfish during the Summer Institute to inform faculty and staff about features and advantages of this software.

- In collaboration with the IT department, the Starfish installation team added the first cohort of students. About 700 students will have an access to this retention software.
- Starfish went live on the first day of classes. There were some minor issues accessing certain features, but the Starfish support staff resolved this problem in a timely manner.

Work needed to be completed: assign students to coaches alphabetically.

3. The PGP Website

Jocelyn Ireland has continued to work on the PGP website. The website includes the PGP goals and objectives, timeline and the key personnel. Here is the link:

<http://www.mvcc.edu/title-iii-pathway-to-graduation>.

4. Digital Toolkits

- Jocelyn Ireland continued to work on improving toolkit materials. Through a series of workshops, eight faculty members have worked with Jocelyn on updating and finalizing toolkits, considering best practices and activities to foster relevance and student engagement. Once again, in redesigning digital toolkits, a special attention was paid to Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to improve and optimize teaching and learning for all students including students with disabilities.
- The eight faculty members started teaching their courses using the toolkits and collecting data to see how successful course completion is compared to those sections taught without the toolkits.

5. Completion Coaches

- Additionally, two coaches, Rachel Golden and Maimun Khan, were hired.
- All three coaches worked on completing and updating a coaching model.
- During the first week of classes, coaches visited a total of 17 Gateway Courses and informed students about services they provide.
- Maimun Khan, a completion coach, agreed to go once a week to Rome to provide coaching assistance for students on the Rome campus.
- All completion coaches continued to familiarize themselves with Starfish features.