The Navigator
PRCC Title III Grant
Impacting Student Success through Retention and Advising
April 2011 — Volume 2, Issue 5

Best Advisement Practice of the Month
An advisor should make students feel that the college cares about them and their success.
(Varney, 2007)

Student Success Center Services
• Computer Resource Lab and Quiet Zone for individual and small group studying
• Learn how to be a Successful Student - Attend the Stay Current! Workshop Series
• Online Tools for Career Exploration and Improving Study Skills
• Check the Title III Website for Additional Resources
www.prcc.edu/t3

POPLARVILLE — After a semester filled with 10 Stay Current! workshops, eight qualifying students who had perfect attendance were entered into a drawing to win a brand new iPad on April 28. Anticipation filled the room in Seal Hall as Leslie Butler, Title III learning specialist and leader of the Stay Current! efforts, drew one name at a time from a bowl. The winner of the iPad was Carrie Abel of Lumberton, Miss. Her sister Katie Abel won second place and took home a board game of LIFE. The third place drawing went to Lane Balch. He received a dozen peanut butter cookies.

The Stay Current! Workshop series, sponsored by Title III, focused on training PRCC students on how to be successful college students. Workshops covered such topics as test taking strategies, note taking, setting personal goals, time management, personal finance, and career preparation.

“Overall I think the Stay Current! Workshop series meets a significant need for students at PRCC,” Butler said. “By breaking down the strategies for success in college to bite-sized, weekly, fun bits, students get the opportunity to think about themselves as college students and implement changes in their attitudes and behaviors towards being college students.”

The eight qualifying students were Carrie Abel, Katie Abel, Lane Balch, Dan Beavers, Jess Hemingway, Austin Korbe, Ethan Martin, and Brandi Stricker. “All of the students who attended regularly were good students already who wanted to be better, more successful, and have a plan for their future education,” Butler said.

Many thanks go out to Butler & Associates, Inc., a Hattiesburg-based company that specializes in targeted consulting projects, for donating the iPad.

POPLARVILLE — One of the objectives of the Title III Grant is to create an online e-portfolio for PRCC students. An e-portfolio is an online, digital space for students to archive and showcase their academic goals and achievements. Students and faculty can use e-portfolios to for personal reflection, plan and set educational and career goals, document significant academic events, and celebrate learning. PRCC e-portfolios offer students a “cool tool” to creatively present evidence of learning and accomplishments to future audiences, such as employers or transfer institutions.

Photo (right): Check out a prime example of an e-portfolio specifically designed for a faux student who is in search of college scholarships. Frank Futura’s e-portfolio at http://ssc.prcc.edu/frankfutura will continue to change and grow with him as he continues his educational journey.

Plan to Pilot e-Portfolios this Summer

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POPLARVILLE — On April 6 and 10, the Office of Information Technology introduced the students enrolled in the newly redesigned College Study Skills course to the RiverGuide, the new online PRCC portal. Steve Howard, Alicia Kimball, Rance Bedwell, Jeff Speed, and Jason Bordelon were all on hand from IT to teach, observe, and then record any feedback from the students as they worked in the portal. Bedwell, programmer/analyst for IT, lead a presentation that demonstrated the various components of the RiverGuide. The new portal serves as a single source for all PRCC online services and includes direct links to Blackboard, student and faculty email accounts, personal and college calendars, and Wildcat Web to register for courses or pay tuition. The RiverGuide also houses pages for access to the PRCC libraries, eLearning, and the Student Success Center. One of the major skills taught in the College Study Skills course that is needed to be a successful college student is to know what college resources are available and how to access these resources for various personal and academic needs. The RiverGuide provides a convenient and up-to-date source for all college resources.

Kudos to PRCC IT for this effort!

Plan to Pilot e-Portfolios this Summer (cont.)

By creating an e-portfolio, PRCC students have the opportunity to jump ahead of their peers for admission into other academic programs, college scholarships, employment, and summer internships. Students can use e-portfolios to take ownership of their learning and creating an e-portfolio is absolutely FREE!

The Title III staff conducted a preliminary usability pilot study in April with the students currently serving as Title III Peer Mentors. The feedback gained from their experiences with the e-portfolio was vital to the continued development of the final product. The e-portfolios are on schedule for piloting during the fall 2011 semester. The staff hopes to release the tool to all PRCC faculty and students the following semester. Training classes will be offered for all interested in utilizing the e-portfolios.

Calling all students: Looking for a job? Good at English? Apply to be an SI Leader!

Title III Supplemental Instruction (SI) Peer Leaders work closely with English faculty members and lead study sessions for students enrolled in various PRCC English courses.

Participation in the program as an SI Leader is a leadership role that will enhance your own learning experience, develop leadership skills, and provide valuable experience for future educational and employment opportunities.

Requirement: Grade of A or B in SI course
Deadline to apply: May 13

Contact Leslie Butler at 601-403-1427 or lbutler@prcc.edu or go to www.prcc.edu/t3/index.php/si-leaders for an application and more details.