The summer months have seen much activity toward implementing the year one objectives for the PRCC Title III grant. As the college embarks on fall 2010, work continues on the development of the new Integrated Learner Support System.

**Annual Professional Development Sessions**

During the Professional Development General Session on August 11, Title III Director Dr. Amy Townsend presented a keynote address to the PRCC faculty entitled *Title III’s Role in Helping PRCC Increase Student Success*. Salient points regarding research on today’s community college students were provided as well as best practices being implemented across the nation to increase the success levels of students. Townsend connected the research to the objectives of PRCC’s Title III grant and discussed how the implementation of this grant will lead to increased levels of student success. Examples of the strategies to be employed are developmental coursework initiatives, creation of a new student success course, and specialized advising to include online advising tools.

“Why is understanding student success research important?” Townsend asked. “Students have changed. We have seen this at the national level and you have encountered this in your classrooms and offices. We must find ways to embrace these changes as an institution. Title III affords us the opportunity to create change from within by building on the good work already being done at PRCC.” In closing, Townsend provided an overview of the grant objectives identifying activities currently underway and outlining those to be implemented over the next four years.

**Student Success Center Open House**

An open house for the new Student Success Center (SSC) was hosted on August 12. Approximately 50 faculty, staff, and students stopped by to tour the new facility. If you missed the event, the Title III staff cordially invites you to drop by for a visit. The SSC houses a quiet zone for students needing a place to study, a training/testing room that can be reserved for specific use, a conference room in which training for all faculty and staff will be provided as we implement our new advising model, and a computer resource area. Currently the computer lab is open on a limited schedule – check the Title III website for details (www.prcc.edu/t3). The overall operational services of the SSC are still in the developmental stage. As student services are defined, information will be provided through this newsletter and via our website.

**Faculty training**

A 20 member faculty focus group has undergone training in best advisement practices that includes 1) best advisement practices – theory and research; (continue to next page)
2) intrusive advising model; and 3) legal and ethical issues of advising. A fourth session on PRCC policies and procedures and the use of online advising tools will be conducted in September. Based on scholarly research and exemplary practices around the country, this group has participated in designing an intrusive advising model that will be piloted throughout the fall semester. Each of these activities will improve overall advisement for students, particularly students considered to be at risk, thereby increasing the level of student success here at PRCC.

**Dr. Maggie Culp Visits PRCC**

In late August, Dr. Maggie Culp, a nationally recognized consultant, educator, and author, visited PRCC’s Forest County Center and Poplarville campus. Culp boasts a thirty-year career as a vice-president, dean, and faculty member in educational institutions across Florida, Massachusetts, Texas, and Virginia. She co-edited *Promoting Student Success in the Two-Year College* (1995) and *Community College Student Affairs: What Really Matters* (2005). Culp also has served on 18 Southern Association Reaffirmation Teams (SACS) and received the Outstanding Institutional Advising Program Award from the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA).

The purpose of Culp’s visit was to assist in the design of an advisement and retention model that will enable PRCC faculty and staff to better serve their students. Culp conducted a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis prior to her visit and used these outcomes to guide her meetings with students, faculty, and staff on both the Poplarville and Forrest County Center campuses. Many thanks to everyone who participated in the focus groups. Over the next several months, the Title III staff and PRCC will work hard to implement the suggested outcomes to institutionalize the new advising model.