Did you know:

The PRCC Title III Grant aims to increase student success and retention through piloting three key efforts:

- The development of an Integrated Learner Support System (ILSS), which encompasses revamping the advising model, renovating facilities to house student success centers, and redesigning a first-year success course.
- The implementation of online services and advisement tools through use of Banner’s Curriculum, Advising, and Program Planning (CAPP) module and student e-portfolios.
- The improvement of high risk education courses by incorporating Supplemental Instruction (SI) material.

Next on the Agenda:

- Training for Faculty and Staff Pilot Groups in Best Advisement Practices.
- Open House for the Title III Student Success Center in August.

Title III Visits Tallahassee Community College

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – During the last week of May, six PRCC employees journeyed to the panhandle of Florida to visit Tallahassee Community College (TCC). The team hoped to gain information and advice on utilizing a Title III Grant from another successful institution that possesses similar objectives as PRCC.

Team members included Leslie Butler, Title III Learning Specialist; Karen Creely, Title III Information Systems Developer/Data Analyst; Dr. Ann Moore, Center Director for Counseling, Advisement, and Placement; Casey Rawls, Title III Administrative Assistant; Judy Roane, Department Chair of the Science, Mathematics, and Business Department; and Dr. Amy Townsend, Title III Director.

TCC received their Title III Grant in October 2006 and centered their efforts on the theme Pathways to Success. With the overall goal of increasing student graduation and retention rates, TCC’s grant focused on enhancing student success through redesigning curriculum, introducing new technologies, training faculty and staff, increasing communication, and improving access to online tools and resources. A second focus of their grant was integrating the enrollment processes of admissions, advisement, orientation, registration, placement testing, and educational/career planning to create a one-stop service. Additionally, TCC’s Title III Grant contributed to the creation of The Learning Commons, an all-inclusive learning center that provides assistance and resources to all TCC students.

Roane said she was very impressed with The Learning Commons. “Students were working on computers, on whiteboards, and with each other in small and large groups. It was exciting just to watch,” she added. “We also saw how useful TCC’s portal was to their students in their academic planning. As PRCC launches our new portal, I hope that we can make it as useful to our students as the one that we saw in Florida.”

Moore sees the benefits of utilizing the PRCC portal and the Banner Curriculum, Advising, and Program Planning (CAPP) module as online tools during the advisement process as well. Moore said she was very impressed with TCC’s use of pod-advisement, which involves faculty advisors meeting with small groups or pods of students and advising them at one time. Pod-advisement is a crucial component in TCC’s progressive advising model that promotes shared responsibility between the institution and the student. “We learned that TCC advisors do not ‘spoon feed’ the advisees by figuring schedules and actually registering students,” she explained. “The goal of any good advisement program is to provide information and skills that will enable students to take an active and responsible role in the educational process.” TCC’s progressive advising model also requires students who have less than 15 credit hours to attend an advising workshop where they learn about the advisement process and the use of online advising tools and resources.

“The TCC staff was very knowledgeable and answered all of our questions,” Moore said. “They treated our group as though we were the only people on campus.” Roane added, “I was amazed at the positive spirit that we experienced during our visit. An enormous amount of work had been done through their Title III experience. Everyone was so knowledgeable, excited, and proud of what was going on with their students. I hope that we can use some ideas from TCC to improve our advising process with our developmental students as well as the entire student population.”

For more information on TCC and their Title III Grant, visit http://www.tcc.fl.edu/about_tcc/grants_office/title_iii.