POPLARVILLE — Since early April, developing the new Integrated Learner Support System (ILSS) has been the primary focus of the Title III Grant staff. The ILSS is the first major phase of the grant and will be utilized by both faculty and students. Initially, the new ILSS will target an at-risk student population and include services such as a first-year success course, advising best practices, peer mentors and Web-accessible resources.

“The Curriculum, Advising, and Program Planning (CAPP) module of Banner, along with the new electronic portal being created through IT, will improve and streamline the advisement process for both faculty and students. To compliment these web-accessible resources, the current College Study Skills course is being redesigned as the new College Success Course. This course will provide students with the necessary tools to succeed in college based on the most current research and best practices of advisement. Incorporating peer mentors in the course redesign will further enhance student success and retention,” said Dr. Amy Townsend, Title III Director.

There have been several key players brainstorming over the development of the ILSS thus far. The ILSS Advisory Team consists of Wendy Aubé, Jerryl Collins, Dow Ford, Dr. Kyle Hill, Deana Hoffield, Steve Howard, Sonya Jordan, Scott Kimball, Judy Roane, Tara Rouse, Dr. Ross Setze, Elaine Smith, Dr. Martha Lou Smith and Carol Williams. “This team has devoted a great deal of time examining the current advisement systems and identifying ideas for improvement. Having an advisory team allows our new ILSS to be created with an internal perspective that is customized to meet the specific needs of PRCC,” said Townsend.

Wendy Aubé, PRCC Academic Counselor, said that by serving on the ILSS Advisory Team she has been able to assist in the restructuring of the current advisement process. “Many students never see an advisor, and inadvertently choose classes that do not apply to their major,” Aubé explained. “We would like to assist students that are transferring as well as those that are completing their studies at Pearl River to make decisions that are in their best interest.”

“I think that the ILSS will have a positive impact on students and PRCC. Improved communication with students and advisors will lead to increased retention and academic success. Good advisement strategies help students articulate and define their goals, leading to increased resolve and satisfaction,” Aubé added.

The development of the new ILSS is on track for implementation in the fall semester.