ORLANDO, Fla. – A group of six faculty and staff from PRCC attended the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) conference in Orlando, Florida, October 3-6, 2010. The group included Wendy Aubé, Dr. Stephen Black, Leslie Butler, Sonya Jordan-Tapper, Dr. Amy Townsend, and Gabe Willis. The theme of the conference was “The Fast Pass to Student Success” and focused on all areas of advisement including adult learners, at-risk populations, first-year and first-generation students, faculty advisor training, advising strategies, and so much more. This group has been charged with developing ways to share the materials/strategies learned at NACADA with all PRCC faculty and staff.

Willis said, “The main point I realized at the conference was that the student pool is changing at a rapid pace, and it is up to advisors to keep up with new innovations and methods of reaching the student in order to retain them and see them graduate.” Willis gave the example of using cell phones, Facebook, and Twitter to communicate with students.

Tapper stated the most valuable information she heard at the conference was that “advising is a personal business” and “must be hands-on.” She added, “The NACADA conference reinforced the notion that institutions of higher education are made of people….not numbers. Administrative personalization and student accountability is the key to successful retention rates.”

Black said the theme that stood out the most at NACADA was concerning intrusive advising methods. He said, “Many students are very bright and capable, but they lack the time management and organizational skills needed to negotiate the complex demands of college. These students need instructors and advisors who will help them learn to prioritize and succeed.”

The workshops Aubé attended focused on developing career centers to assist students in both academic areas and career-tech programs with internship programs and job placement. She explained how she hopes to see the development of e-Portfolios through the Title III grant combined with efforts through the PRCC career center to produce more guidance for students.

The information gleaned from attending NACADA will be incorporated into the Integrated Learner Support System as we continue to streamline our services in efforts to increase student success and retention. A wealth of advising resources based on the most recent research can be found on the NACADA website at www.nacada.ksu.edu.

Student Success Center Services

The Computer Resource Lab and Quiet Zone are now open in the new SSC on the 2nd floor of Crosby Hall, Poplarville Campus. All students are welcome to use these areas for research and studying. Other services are being coordinated for the spring semester some of which will include career exploration, peer mentoring, and basic advising assistance. Click here for hours of operation.

Photo: The PRCC group attending the NACADA Conference included (left to right) Dr. Amy Townsend, Sonya Jordan-Tapper, Gabe Willis, Leslie Butler, Wendy Aubé, and Dr. Stephen Black.
Next on the Agenda:

- Making online advising tools available to all faculty and students

Title III Staff

- Dr. Amy Townsend, Director
- Leslie Butler, Learning Specialist
- Karen Creely, Information Systems Developer/Data Analyst
- Rhonda Ladner, Tech Support
- Casey Rawls, Administrative Assistant

Student Success Center
Crosby Hall, 2nd Floor
(601) 403-1414

Photo: The staff of the Admissions Office includes (left to right) Dow Ford, Sheila Smith, Judy Jarrell, and Ann Lewis.

The Admissions Office is our featured department for this month. Students come to the Admissions Office for a variety of reasons: apply for admission, order transcripts, check on grades, verify enrollment for jobs, insurance, or financial aid. Therefore, all students will pass through the Admissions Office at some point during their careers at PRCC. Student records are maintained in both electronic and paper files and those records are always available to the student through request forms. End of term grades are processed by the Record's Office, and students are notified of their status through Wild Cat Web.

The Admissions Office staff consists of Dow Ford, Assistant Dean of Enrollment Management; Judy Jarrell, Records Clerk; Ann Lewis, Records Clerk; and Sheila Smith, Records Clerk. Ford and his staff follow the college mission statement and try to operate by the idea that we should not withhold assistance from those who need it when it is in our immediate power to help. We strive to help students and want to help students now!

Most of the Admissions Office’s forms, as well as the entire college catalog, can be found on the PRCC website (www.prcc.edu). Many students can find answers to their questions by going to the website first. However, if anyone needs further assistance in utilizing the Admissions Office’s services, they should stop by the Admissions Office at their campus or email admissions@prcc.edu.

Activity in the Student Success Center!

Photos (top to bottom): Carol Williams (right) conducts a group advising session with students Keith Bourquard (left) and Daron Bell (middle) in preparation for spring semester registration. Peer mentors Andrea Maxwell (left) and Kimberly McAndrew (right) play the Game of Life with student Shalae Bester (middle) as a way to learn decision making and money management.

Want to STAND OUT from the crowd and make a difference?

Then apply to be a Peer Mentor!

Title III peer mentors provide leadership and guidance to students in the PRCC College Success Course. They serve as role models and help students make the transition from high school to college life at PRCC.

Requirements: Sophomore Status and 3.0 GPA
Deadline to apply: November 19
Contact Leslie Butler at 601-403-1427 or lbutler@prcc.edu for an application packet and more details.