This month’s best advisement practice is…

An advisor needs to focus on the basics of college education: what is a credit, how does one matriculate (and what does that word mean), how do you create a class schedule.

NACADA - National Academic Advising Association

As part of Title III overall project activity of creating an Integrated Learner Support System for our college, six PRCC representatives attended the NACADA conference in Nashville, TN, in early October. The conference theme was Empowering Students to Write Their Own Songs of Success. Members of the group attended a variety of presentations to learn of advising strategies and research findings that have positively impacted student success. Examples ranged from career planning; athletic advising; advising non-traditional students, transfer students, and students with disabilities; and various advising models – just to name a few.

These representatives are now charged with identifying the 5 most pertinent and reasonable advising strategies for PRCC that will enhance our advising model as we move toward finalizing our Integrated Learner Support System. Members of the group include Dr. Tim Crowe (FCC); Chris Christen (FCC), Michelle Wilson (HC), Cheri Alder (FCC), Dr. Amy Townsend (P) and Tim Dedeaux (P).

Wildcat Fest

The Student Success Center participated in the Wildcat Fest on October 23, 2012. Over 700 high school students attended Wildcat Fest. The Student Success Center provided information about transition from high school to college, and peer leaders were on hand to talk with students as they learned about PRCC.
Pre-Core Advising Underway

This semester, the Title III staff and a group of PRCC faculty are helping to advise our Pre-Core students on both campuses. Under this program, faculty are selected and trained to offer intrusive advising services to students. This kind of intrusive advising has been proven effective in increasing retention rates and overall success rates.

The pre-core advisors for Poplarville are Angie Barber, Patricia Cone, Maggie Smith, Kenny Adams, Sonya Tapper, Leslie Butler, and Amy Townsend. The pre-core advisors at the Forrest County Center are Cheri Alder, Sharon Clark, Toni Cowart, Melinda Marks, Lille McCullum, and Edward Powell.

Freshman, Desmond Edmonson, shared that Pre-Core advising “makes it easier to map out what I need without going online and picking classes that I don’t need.”

Here is what the pre-core advisors have to say about the pilot program:

“Trust me, I had my reservations about pre-core advising…but those have certainly changed! Pre-core advising has made me so ‘aware’ of my students and has helped to build our relationships. As an advisor, I have learned so many things; so I can only imagine how beneficial this is to my students. I have received more ‘thank you’s’ from my students than ever before, because they can see that someone is truly interested in their success.” – Toni Cowart

“Several of the students have stated that talking to me (their pre-core advisor) has helped them be able to talk to their instructors about problems that they are having. It has helped keep them in class. Personally, I get the feeling that by advising early the students actually start to think about what they need to do for the next semester earlier.” – Melinda Marks

“Students with low ACT scores are students who tend to drop out of school. One of the reasons is they do not connect with the school. With pre-core advising, I feel that the students have someone that connects them to the campus. This may make them feel more welcome and willing to stay in school. By having someone they can go to with their questions or concerns, may make the student feel connected. Advising is where they can get answers to questions that their instructors may not be able to answer.” – Sharon Clark

“I’ve enjoyed watching the light dawn for many of my students as they realize that they can create a path to achieve their dreams. While looking at the curriculum as a whole can be overwhelming, students have gained the understanding that one class at a time and one semester at a time adds up to a college degree.” – Leslie Butler
Stay Current!

On September 27, 2012, Dr. Leslie Butler went to the Hancock Center and presented Stay Current Sessions to Ms. Villiere’s, Ms. Wilson’s, and Ms. Goldstein’s classes. She addressed issues regarding time management, staying on top of your courses, how to best use your study time, stress management tips, communicating with instructors, organizational tips, note taking and test-taking tips and communicating with instructors. With Ms. Villiere’s class, Dr. Butler also stressed the major differences between high school and college.

Dr. Butler has also delivered Stay Current Sessions to Mr. Barrett’s Automotive Mechanics classes on studying to take tests and knowing your learning styles. She spoke with Ms. Barnett’s classes about note taking skills and e-Portfolios.

If you’re interested in a Stay Current Session, simply e-mail Dr. Butler at lbutler@prcc.edu.

FCC Fall Festival

Student workers Carol Byrd-Brown, Michaela Donohue, and Will Smith of the SSC decorate the hallway in preparation of the Fall Festival that was held on October 31st. The student leaders at the SSC are in charge of the campus wide door decorating contest.

Peer Leader Spotlight

Sofia I. Tent is a proud member of the Pearl River Community College Honors Institute and a dedicated employee in the Student Success Center. In the Student Success Center, Sofia is a math SI leader and a Peer Mentor. Sofia’s advice when it comes to the math classes at PRCC is “always stay on track and get plenty of sleep before tests.” Her journey started in Lakewood, Ohio, where she was born. In middle school, she moved to Detroit, Michigan, where she lived for three years. In her freshman year of high school, Sofia moved to Carriere, Mississippi, where she graduated with honors from Pearl River Central High School. Sofia one day hopes to acquire a CPA and her Masters of Professional Accountancy from the University of Southern Mississippi.