The Navigator
PRCC Title III Grant
Impacting Student Success through Retention and Advising September — Volume 2, Issue 7

Forrest County Center Hosts Open House

On September 27, 2011 the newly opened Student Success Center at the Forrest County Center hosted its Open House. The Come and Go event was open to all students, faculty, and staff who were invited to tour the center, meet the staff, learn about the services offered to faculty and students, and indulge in delicious sweets. The Open House was well attended with 25 faculty and staff members and 100 students in atten-

Pilot Projects Utilize GradesFirst

During the fall semester, Title III staff are working with two pilot projects utilizing the GradesFirst software system to take attendance and to advise students. Faculty across campuses are “test driving” the product to determine usability and to identify ways that PRCC can best utilize this wonderful product. Faculty involved in the attendance taking pilot are able to efficiently take attendance and immediately identify students who may be at risk due to excessive absences or other academic barriers. This group of faculty will work to refine this process as PRCC moves toward full implementation.

A second group of faculty and professional staff are utilizing other functions of GradesFirst to advise a pilot group of students.

These features allow the advisor to easily communicate with students through email, text or Facebook; schedule appointments; and document important information regarding advisement meetings. Both of these pilot projects will ultimately enable PRCC to improve student success and retention as students with barriers are quickly identified and interventions are provided.

Dr. Maggie Culp Visits PRCC

On August 10th, Dr. Maggie Culp, Title III Retention and Advisement Consultant, spoke to PRCC faculty on “Keeping the Dream Alive in the 21st Century”. Dr. Culp shared six major suggestions for how PRCC can apply the latest research findings as we strive to improve student success and retention across our institution. To learn more about her presentation, please refer to her Power Point presentation. (Keeping the Dream Alive in the 21st Century). Dr. Culp also met with the executive cabinet to share her evaluation of year two of our Title III grant activities.

New Addition to Title III Staff

Bobbie Jo Beach
Administrative Assistant

- Former PRCC student
- Poplarville Native
- Mississippi State University
- Bachelor of Communication
- MBA
- Enjoys travel
New Peer Leaders Announced

This fall we have fourteen new Peer Leaders at the Student Success Center in Poplarville. Eight of these students are Peer Mentors, the other five are SI Leaders. The Peer Mentors are partnered with either an Essential Skills class or a College Study Skills class. The peer mentors work with the students in class on activities designed by the instructor. They help students with projects, understand how to use different computer programs and to understand how to use campus resources. The peer mentors in the College Study Skills classes also work with students during outside of class sessions to address issues that are specific to their needs and interest—such as study strategies and stress management. At the Forrest County Center the peer mentors are working with Dr. Purvis getting the Student Success Center set up and working.

Supplemental Instruction Leaders are facilitating group study sessions in English classes this fall. In Poplarville, Ms. Benton, Ms. Brown, Ms. Thrash and Ms. Holfield are all working with the Student Success Center and the SI Leaders to develop activities to help students excel in their assignments. Mr. Underwood is working with SI at the Forrest County Center in Hattiesburg. Some examples of activities used during SI sessions are group writing, jeopardy games, and thesis statement refinement.

This year’s Peer Leaders in Poplarville are: Billy Rush, Alysa Stevens, Lynn Palmour, David Fondren, Mary Beth Croisdale, Lisa McCance, Caitlyn Ladner, Tyler Harvison, Vanessa Mitchell, and Terrence Perry. The Peer Leaders located in Hattiesburg are: Austin Korbe, Stephanie Nelson, and Chanel’el Evans.

Pre-Core Student Orientation and Advising

On August 12, 2011 the Student Success Center in Poplarville hosted a special orientation for new incoming students. Students who attended the orientation received a tour of the Student Success Center and its services, assistance with completing the online orientation, a discussion of the transition from high school to Pearl River Community College and the challenges they may face, an overview of the policies and procedures of Pearl River Community College, and an introduction to advising and the relationship they should expect to have with their upcoming advisor. This semester started the pilot of a new advising model for Pre-Core students. A select group of advisors is currently working with students who are enrolled in Essential Skills courses. These advisors are implementing a new intrusive advising model that incorporates meeting with the students several times a semester, asking about issues that are inhibiting school success, and being to students. The advisors are utilizing GradesFirst to schedule appointments and document student interactions.

Peer Leader Spotlight
Stephanie Nelson

“I learn so much from all the students I interact with every day, and I truly thank God for giving me this opportunity to better myself, as I better someone else.”

STAY CURRENT!
Chart your own Navigation Course

Every two weeks the Student Success Center hosts a Stay Current! workshop for students. Past topics have included college survival skills, goal setting, and time management. Attendance has steadily increased each week with over 40 students attending the last workshop on time management. The next workshop on note taking skills will be on October 11.