Best Advisement Practice of the Month

An advisor should know his/her advisees on sight outside of the office and greet them and talk with them informally. (Smith 2002)

Student Success Center Services

• Computer Resource Lab and Quiet Zone for individual and small group studying
• Learn how to be a Successful Student - Attend the Stay Current! Workshop Series
• Online Tools for Career Exploration and Improving Study Skills
• Check the Title III Website for Additional Resources www.prcc.edu/t3

The Fall Brings New Beginnings

POPLARVILLE — The Student Success Center has worked rigorously on several exciting projects that will pilot in the fall. Some of these projects include a new advising model for Pre-Core students and the utilization of GradesFirst, an online attendance and advising tool to help advisors and instructors better communicate with students. Grades First will also be utilized as our new Early Alert System. Select groups of faculty members have been asked to help with the pilot of these new programs, including a pilot group who is taking class attendance in GradesFirst. The Student Success Center hopes to offer these services campus wide in the Spring. It is an exciting time to pilot services and programs that are directly related to the focus of the grant, student advisement and retention.

FCC Student Success Center Underway

HATTIESBURG— The renovations for the Student Success Center at the Forrest County Center are progressing smoothly! This center will host a state of the art computer lab for students, a classroom, and a quiet zone for small group study. In the Fall, the FCC Student Success Center will host Stay Current Workshops, host training seminars for PRCC student e-portfolios, and will have regularly scheduled hours for students to utilize the computer lab. The FCC Student Success Center shares the same goals as the Poplarville Student Success Center, focusing on increasing student retention and student success. The programs that have been implemented in the 2010-2011 school year at the Poplarville center will make their way this year to the FCC center. The center is scheduled to open early in the Fall semester. The Learning Specialist for the FCC Center, Dr. Purvis, will be asking instructors to help advertise the center and its services to their students. The first event the center will offer, Stay Current Workshops, will launch August 30 and 31. The topic of the workshop will be “Basic College Survival Skills”.

New Addition to the Title III Staff

Dr. Aaryn Purvis Learning Specialist

Dr. Purvis will be the Learning Specialist for the FCC Student Success Center. Her role includes:
• Implementing current SCC activities at the FCC Center
• Training faculty and staff on best advising practices
POPLARVILLE — One of the objectives of the Title III Grant is to create an online e-portfolio for PRCC students. An e-portfolio is an online, digital space for students to archive and showcase their academic goals and achievements. Students and faculty can use e-portfolios to foster personal reflection, plan and set educational and career goals, document significant academic events, and celebrate learning. PRCC e-portfolios offer students a "cool tool" to creatively present evidence of learning and accomplishments to future audiences, such as employers or transfer institutions.

By creating an e-portfolio, PRCC students have the opportunity to jump ahead of their peers for admission into other academic programs, college scholarships, employment, and summer internships. Students can use e-portfolios to take ownership of their learning and creating an e-portfolio is absolutely FREE!

The e-portfolios are on schedule for piloting during the fall 2011 semester. The staff hopes to release the tool to all PRCC faculty and students the following semester. Training classes will be offered for faculty, staff, and students interested in utilizing the e-portfolios.

Photo (above): Check out a prime example of an e-portfolio specifically designed for a faux student who is in search of college scholarships. Frank Futura's e-portfolio at http://ssc.prcc.edu/frankfutura will continue to change and grow with him as he continues his educational journey.

Supplemental Instruction Takes Off

POPLARVILLE — The Student Success Center hosted a three-day training workshop for students recently hired to be Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leaders. This semester, SI leaders are working with select English faculty to offer SI sessions outside of class. During these SI sessions, students will have the opportunity to apply concepts learned in class in a new way to facilitate better understanding of material. Research shows that students who regularly attend SI sessions perform better in class. One hour of time spent in an SI session is equivalent to four hours of individual study time.

Photo (above): During the SI training workshop, SI leader Billy Rush practices his first day speech in front of the other SI leaders. This training offered students the opportunity to practice public speaking, team work, and learn effective SI study techniques that they can utilize in their individual SI sessions.