POPLARVILLE — One of the key activities in the Title III grant initiative is to develop and pilot a first year success course. The previous College Study Skills course was selected to be redesigned into a “College Success” course and is in the process of piloting this semester. Taught by Title III Learning Specialist Leslie Butler, the course focuses on the skills and attitudes that college students need in order to be successful throughout their academic careers. Students began the semester by focusing on goal setting and time management skills.

Students enrolled in the class spoke highly of the information they are learning through the redesigned course. Alayna Bridges, a freshman from Oak Grove, said that her basketball coach encouraged her to take the course, and the material covered in the course has made her realize several things about herself. “I am not persistent enough in my school work, and I don’t manage my time as well as I thought I did,” she explained. “I am trying to be more aware of what I have to do each day...by creating a daily routine to manage my time.”

Ricky Willis, a freshman from Columbia, said that he has benefitted from the class discussions on time management as well. He said that he is learning how to balance class work, required lab hours, football workouts, and taking time for himself.

Freshmen Tanisha Burnett, Picayune, and Wendi Nunaley, Brookhaven, said they enrolled in the success course with the hopes of bettering their study habits. When asked about what they had learned through the course so far, Burnett said she has learned to prioritize and not rush the time needed to study. Nunaley said, “I have learned that I need to study more than I get my study guide instead of waiting until the day before the test to study.”

Students enrolled in the course participated in a campus “scavenger hunt” to help them learn where the different resources are on campus and who is in the various offices to help them when they need it. Other crucial topics covered throughout the semester include understanding the differences between high school and college and learning to embrace change and use change for positive growth.

Sophomore Keith Bourquard, Slidell, alluded to how changes in his life caused him to reevaluate what motivates him, and the success course has encouraged him to work on his self-motivation. Also, Willis said that attending PRCC has introduced him to a new atmosphere where he has been challenged to overcome his shyness in order to meet people.

Additional components of the course include bringing in guest speakers, meeting with peer mentors, and participating in intrusive advisement.

Meet the 2010 Title III Peer Mentors

An additional component of the pilot success course is the use of peer mentors. Peer mentors were selected based on faculty recommendations and meeting the minimum qualifications as specified in the Title III grant, including sophomore status and at least a 3.0 GPA. Other key traits of a peer mentor are good interpersonal skills, a positive attitude, and a self-starter. The peer mentors underwent intensive training to better understand PRCC policies and procedures, to learn how to interact with their mentees, and to create strategies for planning and executing activities to complement the content of the success course.

This semester’s peer mentors are:

Rachel Leah Huff is from Forest and is a criminal justice major. She plans to transfer to The University of Southern Mississippi and major in criminal psychology with the goal of joining the FBI Terrorism Unit. Huff plans to create peer mentor activities that center on The Game of Life.

“Students will get an education, a job, (cont. to pg. 2)
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Meet the 2010 Title III Peer Mentors (cont.)

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A new feature of the Title III newsletter is to highlight the various departments/offices here at PRCC. Our goal is to provide the PRCC community with information on services provided by each of the functional areas within our institution. By placing the “spotlight” on other departments, the institution as a whole, will become more aware of what it takes to make PRCC a success! The Office of Student Services is our featured area for this month.

The PRCC Office of Student Services acts as a support system for all PRCC students and strives to be available to meet students’ needs and ensure their success. The Office of Student Services includes, but is not limited to, the following departments: admissions (including registration and student records), financial aid (federal, state, institutional, and private programs), campus police, student housing, health services, recruitment and orientation, student support services, student conduct (rules and regulations related to student behavior), and athletics. Its central leadership consists of Dr. Adam Breerwood, Dean of Student Services; Camelle Martin, Secretary to the Dean of Student Services; Caycee Simon, Assistant Dean for Student Life; and Sherry Brown, Secretary to the Assistant Dean for Student Life. Due to the array of departments that fall under the Office of Student Services, the staff works with all PRCC students throughout the semester.

The Office of Student Services is available to assist students in meeting their educational and personal goals while attending PRCC, both in and out of the classroom. Dr. Breerwood and his staff welcome all PRCC faculty and staff members across the institution to utilize the services offered in the Office of Student Services. Most important, we encourage students to contact us with individual needs. Our primary goal is to ensure that others feel confident in the service and care we provide to the student.

Next on the Agenda:
• Title III Grant launches into project year two
• PRCC Group to attend the 2010 NACADA Annual Conference

Title III Staff
• Dr. Amy Townsend, Director
• Leslie Butler, Learning Specialist
• Karen Creely, Information Systems Developer/Data Analyst
• Casey Rawls, Administrative Assistant

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

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