Students Speak – Are We Listening?

Dr. Hilterbran is engaging faculty and staff in previewing a newly released DVD, Students Speak – Are We Listening? The DVD is published through CCSSE. Starting Right in the Community College, authors Kay McClenney, CCCSE director, and Arleen Arnsparer, project manager of the Center’s Initiative on Student Success, bring forth student voices to help community college leaders better understand student goals and expectations, students' sense of their own readiness for college, their concerns as they begin college, and how their college experiences shape either their success or the lack of it.

While SEARK students are not captured in the video, they participated with community college students across the nation (CCSSE) to identify what students think is important for their success in completing their career and academic goals. Right click on the link for a preview.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rCgQaSR8ss&feature=player_detailpage

SEARK College
Promoting Student Success-Promising Practices

Do we help students engage in the College, learn at higher levels, persist in their majors, and attain a credential?? Our answer is yes!! Promising Practices are activities that have been documented in research to have positive impact on improving student success at a community college in all of these important areas.

It’s all in there!!!!!

Planning for Success
- Compass Preparation
- New Student Orientation
- Mandatory Academic Advising

Initiating Success
- Fast Track Dev.Ed
- Accredited Learning Program (ALP)
- PACE

Sustaining Success
- Tutoring
- Strategies for Success

COMPASS Test Preparation

SEARK College has recognized the benefits that can be achieved by preparing students for the COMPASS test. One action plan for preparing students for the COMPASS test is the development of a COMPASS Test Orientation document to be placed on the SEARK website. The goal is to stress the importance of taking the test seriously and providing information to prepare and review for the test.

According to Ron Boren, Coordinator-Learning Assistance Lab, access to the COMPASS preview and sample test will be available on the SEARK website.
NEWS

New Student Orientation (NSO)
All new full-time or degree-seeking students are encouraged to sign up and attend NSO. New Student Orientation informs students and parents about resources that support student success at SEARK College. New students are encouraged to take advantage of this personalized attention to get a jump start on their academic career at Southeast Arkansas College. For information contact Barbara Dunn, Director of Admissions.

Career Services Initiative
Did you know SEARK has a new Virtual Career Center!!! The new center engages both students and employers to ensure a smooth transition of SEARK students into the workforce after completing a degree or certificate. Students are required to register with the Retention and Advisement Center during their course work in Strategies for College Success at the beginning of their college career; moreover, they will be required to register again to satisfy graduation requirements. These two (2) touch points, will forge continuous interaction with students throughout their time at SEARK. We are expecting these to impact retention rate and completion rate of our student population. Contact Deb Pyland and Nerva Copeland for more information.

Team Attends Spring 2012 HLC AQIP STRATEGY FORUM!!
The SEARK Team attended the College’s 2nd Strategy Forum. The Forum was held in St. Charles, Illinois February 29 – March 2, 2012. The focus of the forum, Creating the Climate for Continuous Learning was designed for institutions like SEARK, who have received a Systems Appraisal Feedback Report following completion of their first AQIP Systems Portfolio. The Forum engaged Teams from colleges around the country in developing high quality ideas and discussions on institutional priorities based on the strengths and opportunities identified in the Systems Portfolio Feedback Report. The SEARK Strategy Forum Team included: Dr. Stephen Hilterbran; Diann Williams; Dr. Michael Gunter; Linda Lewis; Debbie Wallace; Nancy Pierce and Mary Kathryn Treglown

Conversation Day 2012
On April 20th, 2012 the College held its third Conversation Day from 8:00a.m to 12:00noon. This was a mandatory meeting for all college faculty and staff. Community stakeholders were invited and participated in the fun. The focus this year was on review the College’s Mission statement and Strategic priorities. The theme for Conversation Day 2012 was “Mission Possible” The turn out for the event was great and many good ideas were generated. Terry Clausen (terryprobablycando) produced a great video “Mission Possible” introducing the focus of Conversation Day. Diann Williams, AQIP Liaison, was the script writer. The administration faculty and staff were the stars! http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTQxxwpST6Y&feature=youtu.be . Ideas generated have been passed on to the Quality Council to further the process on revising the Mission statement which will require approval of the Board of Trustees. ...Just another Quality Improvement initiative!!(Action Project)

CCSSE
The 2012 CCSSE surveys were conducted over a two month period during the Spring Semester. Thank you for your participation in the surveys. All surveys were sent to CCSSE!!The results and analysis are pending and will be shared as soon as they are received. Let’s hope this data and all of our continued hard work pay off in returns of overwhelming student satisfaction and increasing numbers of students persisting (aka – RETENTION) through completion of their academic program!!! CCSSE Survey Administrators are Deborah Domineck and Amber Munnerlyn.
NEWS

Action Projects

**Congratulations** to Linda, Beverly, Mary Kathryn, Rachel and the Team for completion of the “Establishing Developmental Education Entrance and Exit Standards” Action Project; SEARK has new **data supported advisement guidelines** for developmental education. The new placement guidelines are aligned with the mandate for ‘Ability to Benefit’.

New AQIP Action Projects!!

* **Green Awareness Initiative**
  The goal of this project is to reduce the amount of paper waste on the campus to better conserve energy resources. Kaleybra/Angie Ward

* **Establishment of an Operational Data-Mart**
  The goal of this project is to develop a centralized operational data repository for tactical decision-making and reporting. Dr. Michael Gunter/Daytra Demmings.

* **Mission and Strategic Planning Alignment**
  The goals of this project are to: evaluate and if indicated, update the College’s Mission Statement; assure alignment of strategic priorities with the Mission; and establish key performance indicators to provide data that will be useful for leadership in determining the continued direction for the College. Dr. Hilterbran/Quality Council

SURVEYS

* **Faculty Staff Survey** data are being compiled and should be available soon. This annual survey is conducted in Spring semester (April). The 2012 administration had a **67%** participation rate compared to **83%** participation in Spring 2011. Concerns regarding anonymity have been addressed by the Assessment Advisory Team. Aggregate results will be provided to the Executive Cabinet, department heads and funneled through the Quality Council. Your opinion matters! Thanks for participating.

* **Student Evaluation of Instruction** surveys were completed for the Spring semester.

* Summer 2012 **Student Evaluation of Instruction surveys** will be open June 18th-July 20th. Faculty being surveyed have been notified by department heads.

NEWS FLASH!!

The SEARK College AQIP Quality Checkup Visit is scheduled for September 19–21!!

AQIP Visiting Team:
Dr. Larry Sanderson, Team Chair
Director, Institutional Effectiveness
New Mexico Junior College
Hobbs, NM

Dr. Julia M. Smetanka
Director of Education
International Academy of Design Technology
Troy, MI

Dr. Sanderson and Dr. Smetanka were evaluators of the SEARK College Systems Portfolio.