

STUDENT SERVICES MONTHLY UPDATE

March 2017



Dates to Remember:

- March 24: MEOC Open House, 8-4:30, Manzanita 212
- March 29: Priority Registration Begins for Summer
- April 3: Last Day to Withdraw from any course
- April 13: Scholarship Ceremony, 4:30p, Dogwood
- April 20: Cram Night, Tamarack Library
- April 24: Open Registration for Summer

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STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIPS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In fall 2016, the EOPS team collectively presented on “Digital Conversion to Electronic Files” at the statewide EOPS conference. Over 50 schools attended the presentation and we continue to get follow-up requests for personalized assistance from campuses who are hoping to convert to digital files. Tracey Hickey will be conducting a Google Hangout with Hartnell College on Friday, March 17, and the EOPS team will be conducting another training for Rio Hondo College in the near future. **What began as an individual college effort is now positively**



impacting numerous EOPS programs statewide!!

FOSTER YOUTH ENROLLMENT INCREASING!



Foster youth enrollment is growing! Last spring, we started with four foster youth students, and we now have 55 current or former foster youth enrolled. There are still numerous foster youth that need to be contacted, and Stephanie Beaver Alder, Special Programs Counselor, is on top of it! Stephanie has formed a Foster Youth Advisory Committee to analyze and understand what foster youth need and want, and Advisory meetings are held monthly. Through a FIG request, Student Equity funding has provided a food closet, bus cards, gas cards, and Overcome luncheons (also held semi-monthly) for foster youth students.

Overcome luncheons are attended by approximately 12 foster youth per gathering where they bond, learn how to achieve success, and build relationships amongst one another while enjoying a meal together.



Stephanie has also applied for grants to purchase book vouchers for fosters students not enrolled in EOPS and technology equipment such as laptops and/or internet service for those who have no family support or access to technology. Foster Youth Peer Mentors are available to guide foster youth to appropriate resources when needed. Stephanie also hopes to provide foster youth with clothing for interviews in the future.

NEW TOOL FOR ONLINE EDUCATIONAL PLANNING AND EARLY ALERT COMING SOON TO YCCD!



Student Services is working in conjunction with MJC on a district implementation of the state-wide Educational Planning Initiative's (EPI) adoption of **Hobson's Starfish—an online educational planning, early alert, and connecting tool**. This student and user-friendly software will replace our current Early Alert system, making it easy for faculty to send progress reports, and 'raise flags' or give 'kudos' to students in their classes. It will integrate with Canvas and Datatel Colleague, so while it's a bit of a bear on the IT set up, it should provide easy access to student information, connection points, and grades.

Starfish also has a Degree Planner component that allows counselors to work with students on their educational plans, and enables students to manipulate their own plans according to class availability each semester. It can also produce a report about what classes students are planning to take in a particular semester, which should help our enrollment management efforts immensely. There is also a 'Connect' feature that allows students to schedule appointments with instructors, counselors, tutors, and whatever else we set it up for during office hours. This is a big project with an aggressive timeline--we are working toward a soft roll out by fall 2017.

Watch for more information and training opportunities come fall on this dynamic student success tool!



SPRING EDUCATION PLANS & ORIENTATIONS

Copious new students who began attending Columbia College in the spring and who are taking six units or more have completed education plans and orientations, both of which are required to qualify for priority registration and the Board of Governors Waiver. Thanks to the non-stop outreach efforts of our counselors, student ambassadors, and Mike Igoe, Director of Access, Retention & Support, new students have been contacted to ensure they are completing all Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) requirements.

Abbreviated Educational Plan: 44.3%

Comprehensive Educational Plan: 44.3%

Orientations: 32%

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY

The AWE (Academic Wellness Educators) Committee has had a busy year planning events for students and community members alike. Callie Kitchen, adjunct English instructor, was a guest at the February AWE meeting, and she discussed activities that she has underway:



Callie now represents the Brown Bag Book Club which has been meeting since Fall 2016. Callie needs your assistance in choosing books to read and how often the group will meet. Some books that Callie suggested are *Empathy Exams* and *Brain on Fire*. Please contact Callie for more information or to submit suggestions on books to read.

Callie is also resurrecting the Spring Review Journal. She received 30 student submissions thus far, and tutors are helping to edit the articles. Reading of submitted articles will be done in April (date TBD) when students will read their own submissions. Date and location TBA.



A “Made in the Foothills: Author Series” is underway at Columbia College. Again, Callie is bringing local artists and writers who have roots in the foothills to Columbia to discuss their experience living in the Sierra foothills. BZ Smith and Peggy Reza came to Columbia on March 2 when they read poetry, sang songs, and talked about days of old in the foothills. Callie has invited an artist to discuss her journey learning about art between the foothills, New York, and LA at an upcoming Made in the Foothills Author Series. This monthly event is free and open to public and everyone is invited to attend. Future dates TBA.

FINANCIAL AID ACTIVITIES

Encourage your students to come and participate in “Cookies and Cash” day on April 11 from 8:00a to 5:00p. Students who stop by the Financial Aid Office can receive assistance with completing their 2016-2017 or 2017-2018 FAFSA’s, renew their BOG Fee Waiver for the Summer 2017 term, or receive hands on assistance with completing any verification documents that need to be completed. By checking in with their Financial Aid Technician, they will be eligible for a cookie and maybe even qualify for cash in the form of grants or candy.



On April 8, from 9:00a to 1:00p, the Financial Aid Office invites the community to a free Financial Aid Workshop located at Starbucks in the Junction. Financial Aid professionals will be available to assist anyone interested in filling out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or answer any questions pertaining to financial aid. Please contact the Financial Aid Office at 588-5105 or 588-5272 if you have any questions before this event.

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