Community College Students
Engaging Them to Make it Matter

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AVP for Student Support & Engagement

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Creation of the SC Technical College System

- Each TEC Center must have annual high school graduates of 3,000 within a 30 mile radius.
- The system would consist of a minimum of 13 centers to assure that 95% of the population would be within 25 miles of a center.
The Result:

- 13 Centers
- Addition of 3 Centers
- Greenville (1962)
- TCTC (1963)
- College Parallel Programs (University Transfer) 1973
Early Innovation:
Our Initial Mission

Tri-County Technical College

- Be a tool for economic development
- Prepare people for jobs and attract jobs for people
- Increase per capita income
- Diversity our economic base
- Attract manufacturing investments
- Serve manufacturing, business, and other employers
- Provide equality of higher education opportunity for all South Carolinians

Improve the Quality of Life!
Tri-County Technical College, a public community college, focuses on teaching, learning, and helping students reach their goals. The College supports economic development for Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties in South Carolina by preparing a highly-skilled workforce.
Strategic Planning

• **Transformative Student Experience**
  - Passionate people transforming lives and building strong communities one student at a time

• **Strategic Planning**
  - Develop a Comprehensive student engagement strategy
Student Support and Engagement
Where We Were

- Service, Support = Passive
  - Numerous events that weren't connected
  - No student learning objectives
  - Assessment did not exist
  - Outcome expectations unclear
  - Program content wasn't understood by most
  - No method of consolidating events to determine if there was overlap or duplication
Student Support and Engagement
Where We Are Now

- Service, Support and Engagement = Active
  - Redesigning the student experience, directed towards needs that result in retention, persistence
  - Semester Arc, Student Learning Outcomes
    - Introduce
    - Remind and connect
    - Reinforce
    - Regroup, refine
    - Summarize, assess
  - Example: Welcome Week
    - Previous - Guide Service were human sign posts
    - Now - Welcome connections, “Onboarding”
Student Support and Engagement

Where We Are Going

• Leadership Development
  – For all levels of staff
  – Related to cross campus collaboration
  – Ongoing development related to confidence and decision making

• Project Charter Format
  – Related to cross campus collaboration
  – Research, challenge the status quo
  – Engaging Faculty and Administration
Student Support and Engagement

Where We Are Going

Student Engagement Strategy Project Charter

**Purpose**
- Create the conceptual framework of Student Engagement for TCTC
- Seamlessly connects with High Impact educational Practices
- Integrated in and out of the classroom experience

**Result**
- Unique experience that addresses the breadth and depth of needs that our current and future students face
- Demographics suggest that these students will be
  - Under educated for employer needs
  - Lower socio-economic parameter
  - Increasingly diverse
Student Support and Engagement
Where We Are Going

• Who are our students?
• Digging deeper will quantify and identify gaps
• Example
  • 245 ESL Students
  • 269 Student Veterans
  • Average age for 88% of our students is 25
  • 68% are working

• What does that mean for an Engagement Strategy?
  • Breadth and Depth
Student Support and Engagement

Where We Are Going

• Co and Extra Curricular connection
• 21st Century work place skills
• Example: Leading Edge Workshop Series
  • Academic Skills
  • Career and Employability Skills
  • Personal Growth and Development
  • Navigating Leadership
  • Dollars and Sense
• Interdependence with academics for the full educational experience
Call to Action

- Move from Service to Engagement, Passive to Active
  - Encourage your students to find one Co or Extra-Curricular opportunity to get engaged each semester
    - Ask them about it!
    - Connect a student to the resources they need
- Active Engagement
  - Will help our students transform their lives
  - Secure growth oriented employment
- Contribute to their community
Make it Matter

• **Method of Accomplishment**
  
  • Cross-divisional team representing numerous areas of student engagement
  
  • Communication between multi-campuses - first time since multi-campus environment implemented (2006)
  
  • Accountability through team environment
  
  • Focus groups consisting of faculty, administration, students, staff
Make it Matter

• Leadership Development
  – Silo? What Silo? Partnership between academic and student affairs
  – CCSSE Benchmarks
    • active/collaborative learning
    • student/faculty interaction
    • student effort
    • academic challenge
    • support for learning
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• **Overall Impact**
  – Student organizations
    • Sustainable
  – Faculty/Administration Inclusiveness
    • Expectation to embrace a 24/7 education environment
  – Student Buy-In
    • Involvement throughout process
Questions?

Many Thanks!

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References


• www.ccsse.org, Community College Survey of Student Engagement