EXPLORING THE EDGE AT TCTC

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Agenda

- Goals
  - Setting the Stage
  - Leading Edge Experience – Version 1
  - Leading Edge Experience – Version 2
  - Leading Edge Experience – Current
  - Results
Goals of This Session

- By examining the Leading EDGE Experience at TCTC, this presentation attempts to illustrate how an initiative can change to meet student needs and remain relevant to current institutional operations and environment the importance of continual improvement.
- Illustrate the positive impact that co-curricular experiences can have on student success.
- Demonstrate how TCTC has used an engagement tool (Leading EDGE App) to support the efforts of the Leading Edge Experience.
Activity

- Take a moment to consider an ongoing or regularly-held initiative, program, event, etc. at your own institution. What has stayed the same over time? What has changed? What has impacted those changes?
- Find a partner and briefly share your thoughts.
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Transformative Student Experience

The TSE ignites student transformation by creating a challenging, caring, and supportive environment where everyone embraces personal responsibility for maintaining high standards, investing in each other, engaging in authentic and open communications and cultivating a sense of belonging.

Employable
Dedicated
Goal-Oriented
Empowered
Student Engagement Strategy @ TCTC

- Embedded TCTC’s General Education outcomes
  - 21st Century work place skills
- Strive to connect curricular and co-curricular content (cross-function)
21st Century Skills – Gen Ed Outcomes

Collaboration
Integrative Learning
Digital Literacy
Written Communication
Oral Communication
Problem Solving
Components of the Leading EDGE Experience

■ Leading EDGE Skillshops
■ Faculty Enrichment Series
■ Student Leadership and Organizations
■ Office-sponsored events
  - Ex: Career and Employability Resources, Financial Aid, Student Success Coaches
■ Academic Division Engagement events
Demo of Leading EDGE App
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Leading EDGE Experience – Version 1 2016-17

- Based on a curricular structure – over time, students would participate in an organized set of experiences, progressing through the program over time, experience progress was cumulative from term to term
- Experiences were offered in the following categories, cross referenced with 21st Century Skills:
  - Campus Events
  - Community Service
  - Career and Professional
  - Expanded Worldview
  - Practical Life Skills
- Skillshops coordinated by Career Services
- Overall timeframe – 2+ semesters
Thinking about version 2

- The structure was proving to be too complex and unwieldy
- While Student Development staff had a good understanding of the program, students and other employees didn’t seem to connect with the flow and structure of the program naturally
- Desire to connect the program to concepts that were emerging in TCTC’s environment and collective consciousness (21st Century Skills, changing general education outcomes)
- Move coordination of Leading EDGE Skillshops from Career Services to Student Development
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Leading EDGE Experience – Version 2 2017-18

- Introduced points, to replace stepping through the category-related progression
- Included a once-a-semester reflection as gateway to earn incentives
- Discontinued categories, organizing experiences around the 21st Century skills
- Introduced “Leading EDGE Scholar” recognition
- Introduced the Leading EDGE App (powered by Involvio) as the interactive tool
- Leading EDGE Skillshops coordinated by Student Development, moved from Career Services
Thinking about Version 3

- Skillshop coordination – move to the Learning Commons?
- Move to a tiered recognition level system (bronze, sliver, gold)
- More consistent use of QR scanning function to check into events
- More frequent incentives
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Leading EDGE Experience – Current 2018-19/ 2019-20

- Leading EDGE Skillshops coordinated by Learning Commons
- Introduced a tiered level system (Bronze, Sliver, Gold)
  - Self-reflection required as student moves from one level to the next.
  - Tracked in Leading EDGE App
- Use of student organization feature in Leading EDGE App
- Recognition of advancement in levels through the Leading EDGE App and in displays on campus
- Introduced Office check-in locations (through Leading EDGE App) to encourage use of support services,
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Results
Student Engagement Results

- Student Engagement Increased through promotion of student organizations and leadership society’s through the Leading EDGE App
  - Student Government has the largest involved cohort in 10 years
  - National Society for Leadership and Success has the largest incoming Spring cohort of any chapter in the country.

- Leading EDGE App Usage
  - 2450 students active on app in some form since first day of class Fall 2019
  - 620 have earned points
Student Success Results

- Based on an analysis of those students who engaged in Leading Edge Skillshops or Faculty Enrichment Series events (n=202)

- LEE participants were more academically successful in the fall 2019 term as compared to non-participating students (Semester GPA is 2.0 or greater)
  - LEE – 85.6%; Non-LEE – 63.2%

- Considering the same metric with adult students (> 24 years), positive results are more pronounced:
  - LEE (Adult student) – 94.4%; Non-LEE – 55.3%

Note: Results have not been verified by TCTC Institutional Research
Student Persistence Results
Fall 2019 to Spring 2020

- Based on an analysis of those students who engaged in Leading Edge Skillshops or Faculty Enrichment Series events (n=202)
- LEE participants persisted at a higher rate as compared to non-participating students (enrolled in Fall 19 and re-enrolled for Spring 2020)
  - LEE – 85.6%; Non-LEE – 63.2%
- Considering the same metric, results hold true for several sub-groups:
  - LEE (Adult student) – 79.7%; Non-LEE – 65.9%
  - First Gen Students: LEE – 79.7%; Non-LEE – 70.7%

Note: Results have not been verified by TCTC Institutional Research
Student Comments

- The skill shops offered over the past few weeks are good examples of skills that can be applied to concepts outside of school. The time management skill shop is a good example. Showing me how to responsibly organize my schedule by using a planner not only immensely keeps me on top of my assignments, but it can also be extended to the workplace. It's even helping me out with my current job by just allowing me to figure out my work schedule in advance, based on test dates and assignment due dates.

- The interactions provided by many of the Leading EDGE experiences have boosted my confidence in communication skills. It is not easy to approach someone you don't know and engage in a thoughtful conversation, but TCTC events have made these interactions more comfortable. It is also rather neat that TCTC has the EDGE app, allowing students to get involved with the college through a platform that many recognize. Thanks!
Thoughts for the future

- Evaluate Leading EDGE App
- How can we provide a co-curricular record
- Develop a longitudinal assessment process
- How to engage student populations that are not regularly participating in the LEE (i.e. adult students)