This year the Journey grant is working with 30 Engineering Technology students as they start PTC. Sharon Saxon, Case Manager for the grant has help these students navigate the admissions process and register for their 1st semester classes. The students, with Sharon’s help, have completed an Individualized Graduation Plan in Degree Works and setting goals. The Degree Works plan will help students identify the steps they need to take to be successful each semester until graduation. Working with

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Journey’s Progress in the 2nd Year (continued)

Sharon, each student developed a plan for the first year coursework. In addition, Sharon has assisted the students in getting connected to campus resources such as the Tutoring Center, TLC, and workshops.

These 30 students have worked with Haven Willimon, Career Specialist, to complete a number of assessments, such as TypeFocus, College Student Inventory, and WorkKeys, providing them valuable information about themselves and how they learn. The staff has seen the students’ confidence grow as they discovered more about themselves and how they learn. The grant has provided several workshops focused on academic and personal skills for the target population. Additionally a Meet and Greet was held for the 30 students in the grant to meet their advisors and future instructors. The Engineering Technology faculty worked closely with the grant staff to assist the students participating in the grant.

Of 30 students, 90% persisted from Fall to Spring and have an average GPA of 3.4.

In addition to working with the Engineering Technology students, the grant worked with more than 100 Undecided students during Year Two. The staff, in connection with PTC Career Counselor, Brenda Edwards, assisted with these undecided students to facilitate the selection of good career choices, and highlight the college’s STEM programs. As the students were assessed and their aptitude for STEM curricula was identified, the students were referred to Journey to discuss Engineering Technology majors and the related degrees and transfer options offered by PTC. By connecting these students with Engineering Technology faculty, the students can talk with someone that has worked in their field of interest. If Engineering Technology is not the STEM major chosen, the student is provided with information on the college’s other STEM curricula and appropriate referrals are made.

For Year Three (2013-2014) we will:

- Continue Case Management with the current cohort
- Pilot modified Assessment & Case Management system with 30 Associate of Science majors
- Pilot the Financial Aid Literacy Support System with 300 students
- Pilot the COL 103 class with a STEM focus
- Work with COL 103 staff to develop an online version of the STEM focused COL 103 class
- Work with appropriate faculty and staff to design and develop a Learning Community

Career Coach

During Year Two, the grant purchased Career Coach, a tool that allows students and any visitor to the PTC website to learn about employment prospects for careers they want to research. The real-time information is customized to the College’s geographic region, and provide detailed wage estimates. Up-to-date job postings associated with any career can be found through a simple keyword search.

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