

Underprepared Student Initiative

End of the Year Report

May 2015

This review is designed to inventory the USI's accomplishments and make recommendations for the future.

Testing

- Beginning of semester
 - o USI members discussed the possibility of handing out a flier at the time students receive their placement test scores that highlighted what classes were needed in clear, precise way.
- End of semester
 - o There is too much going on for Testing to take the responsibility of handing out a flier. Pamela and Laurie Cigan worked together to reword the placement finding on the actual placement score handout.

Student Completion

- USI investigated the possibility of sending a letter of congratulation to students who complete all Dev Ed classes and are about to embark on their first semester of core classes. It was determined that gathering correct data (people transfer to other schools, etc) and finding correct contact information (past endeavors have produced a flood of returned mail) would be exhaustive. Idea scrapped after research completed.

Website

- Beginning of Semester
 - o Decided our website was geared toward faculty and staff
 - o Marc Varner now helping with website and changes are being made.
 - o The USI committee looked at its various mission statements as well as the PVCC mission (from the 2013 Program review) and decided on the correct statement to put on the website.
 - o Pamela wrote the history of USI based on Rick Sheets information.
- End of semester
 - o USI team edited history and it was added to the website.

Newsletter

- Assignments given and completed. Both a Fall (aimed at faculty and staff) and Spring (aimed at Students) newsletter was distributed.

- As an experiment, the USI newsletter contained a paper version of all English and math classes so that Dev Ed students had a tangible schedule. Over the summer and at the beginning of August 2016 Pamela queried those who'd been given the newsletter to determine if the addition proved valuable. Most did not refer to our newsletter as online has become the norm. We will not do this again.

Staff Training

- Beginning of Year
 - Began planning workshop called "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know". Presenters will be Mike Hamm and Mike Mitchell.
 - USI looked into bringing a team from South Mountain to present their English/reading/math bootcamp sessions.
- End of the Year
 - Spring Learning week presentation a success. Attendees asked for a following in Fall.
 - Most USI team members attended the Student Success Conference.
 - Most USI team members attended the AADE conference at South Mountain
 - The USI team agreed that with the addition of AADE conferences, we no longer need to put on Brown Bag sessions. We made the goal to always have a PVCC offering at the AADE conference.
 - Many USI members attended a one-day workshop at GCC about NADE certification.
 - Maribeth spoke at a high school about "Non-judgmental Language".
 - USI began working on part two of "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know."
 - Lili is putting together a Learning Week presentation on "Changes in the Library."

*** USI put together an acronym sheet and distributed it during spring Learning week.

Mission Statement

- The USI committee looked at its various mission statements as well as the PVCC mission (from the 2013 Program review) and decided on the correct statement to put on the website.