Implementing Methods to Increase Student Success

At the IUPUI summit of the Council on Retention & Graduation and Enrollment Management Council in October, Dr. L. Lee Knefelkamp, professor of psychology and education at Columbia University’s Teachers College, referred to IUPUI as one of the nation’s top leadership schools in liberal education.

The councils met to begin collaboration on incentives to increase IUPUI student retention and graduation. At the end of the summit, the goals of the two groups included:

- developing priorities to help students persist in their studies
- increasing student engagement
- building on successful first-year programs
- supporting transfer students
- using curricular innovations
- expanding experiential learning
- understanding the challenges students face

The CRG steering committee met on November 4, 2010 to discuss the goals developed at the summit. The suggestions were placed into four main categories: engagement beyond the first year, creating connections between the freshman and sophomore year, focusing on seniors, and helping transfer students to succeed.

Committed to student success, the CRG committee decided to formulate working groups that will work year round on identifying strategies to approach these main categories. The ideas will be presented to campus administrators for consideration.
Since its debut 10 years ago, the Gateway Program of IUPUI has seen many changes. The program is continuing to evolve by having its faculty take part in beneficial workshops that will improve the Gateway program even more. Kate Thedwall, Director of the Gateway to Graduation Program, said that their newest workshop in development is based on a critical thinking method and the Principles of Undergraduate Learning. The workshop is being piloted by six different faculty members: Lisa Contino, Chair of the Community of Practice; Lin Zhu, Chemistry; Nancy Evans, CIT; Scott Weeden, English; Jennifer Beasley, advisor to the Gateway Center for Teaching & Learning; and Thedwall representing Communication Studies.

“I’m very excited about it,” Thedwall said.

Thedwall explained that the American Association of Colleges and Universities indicates that critical thinking is the number one skill students need when they graduate from college. Because of that, the workshop in development is basing their program on six different disciplines to transform undergraduate Gateway courses into classes that will make freshmen think critically. The goal is that all Gateway programs will be taught through the same lens of critical thinking and that the same technique will be used in each class, allowing freshmen to make educated comparisons and connections between different classes like math and psychology.

A mid-winter workshop is scheduled for March 4, 2011 and a two-day workshop is scheduled for May 9 and 10.

UCOL’s SPAN Division Offers New Scholarship

University College’s SPAN division received a two-year funding of $100,000 this past summer for their new scholarship program, Take6. The Take6 scholarship is awarded to 30 high school seniors each year and is offered to Upward Bound and 21st Century Scholar students. The scholarship gives students the opportunity to take up to six credit hours of college courses tuition free!

Johnny Russell, program director and director of the SPAN division, said that the scholarship focuses on IPS schools. The scholarship’s goal is to aid students who have very limited financial standing or none at all.

“It’s a way to encourage academic excellence to students who have already demonstrated academic excellence,” Russell said.

Russell believes that the scholarship provides students with “an opportunity to experience a genuine early college experience.” The SPAN division specializes in early college programs, and the Take6 scholarship is just one of many opportunities offered.

Dean Search Update

Dean James Gladden reported that University College has been receiving applications and will soon begin reviewing these applications for the new UCOL dean. Plans are to have on-campus interviews starting January 2011.
It is hard to believe that we are entering the last few weeks of the semester and will soon be worrying about all of the unfinished business facing us before we can enjoy the semester break, short though it may be for those of us in University College. We, of course, feel regret as we realize the time is imminent when Dean Scott Evenbeck officially sets sail for New York on January 1, 2011. I want to express my appreciation for the marvelous and creative set of tributes offered to Dean Evenbeck during his retirement celebration on November 30th. There were laughs and tears, warm thoughts and fond memories, but most of all an outpouring of sincere respect and appreciation for a life’s work spent building an institution and all of us along with it. I am certain that while Scott’s work may be in New York, his heart will be right here. University College, in turn, can look forward to an exciting spring semester that will include the interesting “on campus” phase of the dean’s search culminating in the naming of a new dean in the not too distant future. I continue to appreciate the opportunity I have been afforded to serve as interim dean, and I am especially impressed with the sustained and genuine commitment to student success that is evident in everything University College undertakes. Thanks for being such great colleagues.
Meet the University College
Senior Faculty

Dean
Scott Evenbeck

University College
Senior Faculty

School of Education
Jacqueline Blackwell
Josh Smith

School of Engineering & Technology
Barbara Christie
Clifford Goodwin
Steve Hundley

School of Liberal Arts
Enrica Ardemagni
Owen Dwyer
Gina Sanchez Gibau
Monroe Little
Obioma Nnaemeka
John Parrish-Sprowl
Susan Sutton
Richard Ward
Bob White
Marianne Wokeck

School of Nursing
Anne Belcher
Donna Boland
Beverly Linde

School of Physical Education
Rafael Bahamonde

School of Social Work
Lisa McGuire
Irene Queiro-Tajalli

School of Science
Drew Appleby
Andy Barth
Benzion Boukai
Robert Bringle
Andrew Gavrin
David Malik
Bethany Neal-Beliveau
Bart Ng
Jeff Watt

University Library
Randall Halverson
William Orme
Tony Stamatoplos

School of Public & Environmental Affairs
Crystal Garcia

Herron School of Art and Design
William Potter

Academic Affairs
Mary Fisher

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