Draft Plan for SB1456 Plan for At Risk Students

Overview

Honors Achievement Workshop (HAW)

The Honors Achievement Workshop targets students in Basic Skills courses: ESL 8, Dev Com 1, English 21 and 28, Math 105, and 112 who are also on second level probationary status. After semester grades post, students on second level probation with a grade point average of 1.0 to 1.99 are identified and sent letters inviting them to go online to schedule an information session about the HAW program. Sessions are led by counselor where information is shared about the probation and dismissal process and the HAW program. Students are given three options in the session: 1) Show evidence that with anticipated grades for the current term they can regain good standing and subsequently waive the program, 2) Participate in the program and receive immunity from dismissal action for two additional semesters, 3) Refuse services and follow the process leading towards dismissal after the third consecutive semester on probation. Students opting to participate in the HAW program sign a contract obligating them to the term of participation, meet with a HAW counselor to complete a multiple semester educational plan, complete and pass a specially developed three unit grade-earning college success course for students on probation, Personal Development 40, and attend directed learning workshops conducted by the HAW counselor that correlate with the instructional topics in the college success course. Targeted students are blocked from registering until they attend an information session and select one of the available options. The HAW counselor would do class room visits to promote a connection and collaboration with their academic instructors. The HAW counselor would work directly with Basic Skills instructors to ensure that students’ needs are being met and that they are receiving effective support services to ensure retention and persistence in English and or Math sequence.

Currently within out district 28% or 33,664 out of 120,623 unduplicated students had a below 2.0 g.p.a. There is a need to have a strategic intervention for this epidemic of students at risk for dismissal. The HAW program will collect quantitative data via surveys and course completion success rates from semester to semester. Qualitative data will be collected via focus groups from the cohort of student participants about what has worked for them and what didn’t work for them in this program as a way to improve the impact and effectiveness in subsequent semesters. It is our hope that this semester pilot program modeled after Chaffee College’s Opening Doors to Excellence (ODE) program is institutionalized by the college and can be scaled up to service all students on probation to ensure their registration priority moving forward with the Student Success Act (SB 1456) for Fall 2014.

Itemization of Funds

Specifically funds will be used to hire the HAW Counselor at 16 hours per week or .45 of a 35 hours/week. The HAW Counselor would be able to provide counseling services to approximately 256 students per semester and also providing approximately 64 workshops per semester to targeted students. Ideally this pilot program’s duration would be that of two semesters, Spring 2014 through Fall 2014 but due to possible funding restrictions and funds being scares, we are requesting that this pilot be considered for at least one semester, Spring 2014.

Similar Activities/Programs on Campus and How This Program Would be Different

The Counseling Department currently offers Financial Reinstatement Workshops specifically for Financial Aid students not meeting satisfactory academic progress (SAP) in which probation and academic dismissal is addressed but these are limited to the students on Financial Aid. This concept is different because it specifically targets our most vulnerable student population at risk for dropping out or being dismissed. This pilot program would innovatively create an intervention for at risk students in basic skills courses. The counseling department also sees students who are subject to dismissal on a semester basis and sends out letters informing them that if they do not meet with a counselor to create an educational plan they will be dismissed. This program would be different in that it will target specifically students in the basic skills classes and provide support services to open doors for excellence. The EOPS Department also offers counseling to at risk students for dismissal but this counseling is limited to EOPS students who qualify for the program.
Alignment with the Educational Master Plan, the Strategic Master Plan and Program Review:

This plan promotes and accomplishes the goals and objectives of:

Educational Master Plan: Goal 1. PROVIDE SUPPORT TO ENSURE STUDENT RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND SUCCESS via 1.3, Broaden participation in critical areas such as course prerequisites, assessment and placement, counseling, class climate, and student support. It supports the Strategic Plan Goal 1. Expand access to educational programs and services and increase student success. This request is directly connected to our program review/unit assessment as one of our SSAO’s is to measure that we are helping students complete an educational plan in a timely manner. As part of our program services we offer counseling for students on academic probation and this program would enhance our efforts with the hire of another counselor that will be dedicated to this basic skills student population on probation. The General Counseling office currently has 6 counselors on staff. Of these 6 counselors 4 are full time, 1 is on 100% release and 1 is on 50% release. Therefore our counselor to student ratio is 1:2,500. The addition of this counselor would help open up more appointment for our general population and decrease drop-in time wait. This program would support one of our challenges of the need for additional counselors to do one-on-one counseling and educational planning, and group counseling in the form of workshops.