



Strategic Goal #4: Improve Student Career Preparation

April 17, 2012 L 244

Attending: Co-leader Dawna Perez, members Jason Bohanan, Irene Chalek, Christine DeRosa, Euthemia Gilman, Scott Joubert, Nita Lamborghini, Deb LaValley, John Sabbagh, Glennys Sanchez, Josefina Taveras

We talked about Occupational Advisory Board(s) – college-wide and more specifically those that might function within a department. Scott offered that the advisory board that works with the Criminal Justice program is active and helpful. They have open communication with 22 agencies and most participate in their monthly meetings. One element of research we'd like to conduct is to find out if other departments have high-functioning advisory boards, what they do, how they contribute to student career preparation and if there are aspects we can adopt consistently across the college.

It was brought up that even when specific programs do a great job of career preparation for students with their partnerships and linkages with industry, what happens to General Studies/Liberal Arts students...what are we doing for them? Workshops currently offered are voluntary and don't touch enough students.

Another research point we can investigate will be what do the vocational technical high schools do in terms of all-around student career preparation? Let's look to see what the vokes do, other community and four year public and private schools—perhaps there are models we can adopt and adapt to NECC.

We talked a lot about culture shift toward student success being 'everyone's job' and how student engagement is the key to all of it, so whoever touches a student understands their ability to influence a successful outcome, even if it just means making a student feel welcomed and listened to. Deb mentioned that we could take more advantage of technology by maximizing our use of the web to put cultural pieces on there, showing students some of the things we'd like them to know (by using current students who model the behavior/professional dress/attitude).

Another potential point of information may be the NE Regional Readiness Center, which captures K-12, community colleges, state schools and some private schools. Euthemia sits on the Executive Board and could access that resource.

Dawna also mentioned that in September we will have the added resource of a Merrimack College Fellow who is interested in our Goal Team's topic and will be able to work with us from September to June doing whatever we'd like her to do. She will be able to dedicate between 20-25 hours per week to us. That should be an enormous help in getting a lot of our first year research done!

Perez 4/19/12

Our next meeting will have Clare Thompson, Joshua Abreu and Kirsten Kortz as guests to talk about College Success seminar and what's happening in the Student Success Center around student career preparation.

The next meeting will be Friday, April 27th from 1:00-2:00 in L 144.