AtDetails

Leadership Retreat, 11:30-12 (photos on right)

West’s Student Success Committee (a committee of the Academic Senate) has adopted the Achieving the Dream framework to accomplish its goal of increasing student success.

Upcoming Events
Student Success/ATD Core Team Meeting
Dec 5 | Feb 13 | Mar 6
Apr 10 | May 1 | June 4
2:30 pm | Winlock

ATD Data Team Meeting
TBA

Holiday Happy Hour
December 13

DREAM Conference
February 5-8, 2013

Achieving the Dream uses a student-centered model of institutional improvement focused on creating a culture of evidence in which data and inquiry drive broad-based institutional efforts to close achievement gaps and improve student outcomes overall.

ATD College Priorities
• Successful completion of the English sequence from English 21 through English 101
• Successful completion of Elementary Algebra through Intermediate Algebra
• Successful achievement of degrees and certificates
• Intervention Strategies
  • Enhanced Tutoring
  • Professional Development
  • Navigating West (Enhanced Communication with Students)

View the full Proposal at

how do we achieve student success? ultimately, circle never ends, always making progress

passion is so important on inspiring student success

COREsponse
Core Team News

Clare Norris and Mary-Jo Apigo, Core Team Leaders

Below is an update on West’s three intervention strategies:

NAVIGATING WEST. Faculty Advising in LACCD is still being discussed by the District Counselors. We are eager to establish a date certain by which the LACCD Counseling Divisions will have established a faculty advising model to adopt.

During our October 29-30 coach visit, the Student Success teams discussed augmenting West’s current orientation offerings for new students. One possibility is to add a more comprehensive new student orientation to the activities of West’s future Semester Kickoffs. The Matriculation/Student Success 2012 Advisory Committee is discussing possibilities for West’s augmented orientation offerings.

ENHANCED TUTORING. The Language Arts and Mathematics Divisions met with West’s ATD coaches during their visit and established next steps. The Language Arts Division meeting included Learning Center faculty and staff members. They examined data and discovered that many more English 101 students than 21 and 28 students utilize the Writing Lab. Thus, the division established a goal of sharing that data with more English 21 and 28 instructors and supporting them in taking their classes to the lab at the onset of the semester and sharing with them the benefits of utilizing the services. Then, we can measure how many more English 21 and 28 students use the Writing Lab and if success rates increase. Faculty members present also discussed the possibility of revising student placement, especially into English 21.

In the coach meeting with the Mathematics Division and West’s ATD coaches, mathematics faculty members and the Learning Center math faculty member discussed the possibility of setting up in-class tutoring for some math classes this spring and planned strategies to operationalize West’s new Math lab.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. West’s Student Success teams are eagerly anticipating this year’s Leadership Retreat, scheduled for November 30th.

West’s Core Team has been studying a list of professional development options for West. Great interest has been sparked by opportunities to learn more about supporting students’ affective needs (self-efficacy, hope, connection, self-identity, mindfulness, etc.) in addition to their academic ones. A few free webinars are coming up where you can learn more: http://academyforcollegeexcellence.org/new-affective-domain-webinar/.

A number of West faculty members have completed a six-week online Reading Apprenticeship course this semester. West’s Reading Apprenticeship Faculty Inquiry Group met for the first time this month and will meet again on December 6th at 12:45 in GC 210K. If you’re interested in participating, contact Nancy Sander at x5854 or sandern@wlac.edu.

See back page for more information about the West Holiday Happy Hour!

Fostering STUDENT SUCCESS at West
Meet West’s ATD Coaches

Omero Suarez, Ph.D.
Leadership Coach

Omero Suarez has been an educational leader for over 30 years, served as chancellor of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District in San Diego County from 1998 to 2009, when he retired. As an Achieving the Dream Coach, Dr. Suarez consults with community colleges in California and Texas.

Dr. Suarez currently teaches in the doctoral program for community college leadership at San Diego State University and serves as President of the Board of Directors for the Institute for Evidenced Based Change (IEBC), located in Encinitas, California.

Dr. Suarez has worked tirelessly to strengthen the educational pipeline from kindergarten, to the community college, to the university. He has championed pioneering data-sharing agreements that facilitate and enable instructional improvement throughout K-16. Additionally, Dr. Suarez has worked to develop model transfer initiatives that have resulted in streamlining the educational transfer pathway for students from the community college to the California State University system and the University of California system.

Statewide, Dr. Suarez lead the effort to secure equitable funding for community colleges, working to close the gap between the highest and lowest-funded districts in the state. This historical change in the funding formula for California Community Colleges was successfully enacted in 2006.

Educational Background: Dr. Suarez earned his doctorate in Administration of Higher Education from the University of Oklahoma in 1981; Master’s degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Nebraska; and a Bachelor’s degree in Spanish from Chadron State College in Nebraska.

Kriesta Watson, Ed.D.
Data Coach

Kriesta Watson’s background includes over 16 years of administrative experience with eleven years concentrated in the area of institutional research and assessment within both public and private higher educational institutions. As an Achieving the Dream Data Coach, Dr. Watson consults four community colleges in the Midwest and West region with a particular interest in institutional effectiveness, data analysis, research methodology, and learning assessment.

Currently, Dr. Watson is actively engaged on national projects facilitating change in community colleges while concentrating on institutional effectiveness, equity, and access. Her current research interests include studying retention efforts concentrated on minority achievement and student learning assessment within private and public colleges and universities to examine teaching and learning experiences for Adult and Millennial Learners.

Educational Background: Dr. Watson holds a Doctorate in Education from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland; a Master’s of Education from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts; and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Data Bytes
Update from the Data Team

By Clare Norris, ATD Faculty Coordinator and Elizabeth Bell, Professor of Physics & Data Team Co-Chair

West’s first Semester Kickoff was held August 24 for Fall 2012. The data team is continuing to assess surveys of ten Language Arts classes, faculty and staff responses delivered by Survey Monkey, and a student focus group conducted October 22. Of the 34 faculty and staff respondents and 244 students (78 who attended and 166 who did not), there were common themes that emerged from their responses. One of the main goals of the event seemed to have been met as student participant respondents liked the opportunity to get an early start to the semester, learn about their classes, set up their email, and buy their books. Both students and faculty participants enjoyed having the opportunity to interact and address questions before the start of the semester. Students found the orientations, faculty meet-and-greet, and campus tours especially valuable.

Through the surveys and focus group responses, the data team learned of suggestions for the next Kickoff event. All participants wanted to see more participation from faculty. Students wanted to get their syllabi early (they expected more syllabi to be available because it was advertised). Students would have liked to have seen food and music at the event to make it more inviting. In addition, students felt that there was not enough advertising prior to the event and that directional signage was needed as students not familiar to the campus felt lost.

Look who got CoreNerd!

This month’s CoreNerd is Ashok Patil. He is an Associate Professor of Computer Science.

FUN FACT: He has written and directed 3 award-winning feature films.