

Rachel Garcia

From: Henry Gee
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2013 3:32 PM
To: AAA--All Staff
Subject: Campus Update

Importance: High

Dear Campus Community,

As a follow-up to our Flex Day presentation today regarding the Student Success Initiative (SSI), I wanted to update you about the newly created Freshman Success Center (FSC).

1. In order to meet recommendation [2.2](#) and [2.5](#), we have created the Freshman Success Center (former office of TRIO on the 3rd floor of the Student Services Building – SS 350) to address the need to:
 - a) participate in diagnostic assessment, orientation and create an educational plan and
 - b) assist students in declaring a program of study prior to the end of their second term on campus.
2. The largest cohort group for the Student Success Score Card are Freshmen (recent high school graduates), yet this group has lower persistence, graduation, and transfer rates. This has a negative impact on our score card results.
3. The SSI requires that all students need to declare a program of study and meet with a counselor to develop an Ed Plan during their first year of study. This will require our campus to move from a student-initiated contact model to a college-initiated contact model.
4. The FSC will allow us to manage a cohort of 1,800 freshmen and ensure that they declare a program of study and develop an Ed Plan during their first year of study.
5. Other services such as Freshmen Welcome Days, AccessRio workshops, and Freshman Success Seminars will be provided through the FSC, which is aligned with the SSI.
6. Funding for the SSI is to be targeted to core services of orientation, assessment, counseling & advising, and other education planning services. (from the [SB 1456 Planning & Implementation Timeline](#), Fiscal Year 2013-14). The FSC specifically falls under the education planning services component.
7. A Legislative implementation report is due July 1, 2014, and biannually thereafter; thus the importance of creating and monitoring the freshmen cohort at the beginning of this academic year, 2013-14.

At the workshop offered at 11:00 am, there was spirited discussion, input and suggestions from many persons there. The website I mentioned during the Flex presentation in the Wray Theater can be accessed at [Rio Hondo College – Student Success Initiative](#) and will be updated regularly. Today's workshop summary will be up by the end of next week. The overall planning, implementation and future success of the SSI will enhance our ability in "*Understanding the Student Experience*" and assist the college in becoming a statewide model for success! I want to thank President Dreyfuss for her leadership with this initiative, and I especially want to thank everyone for being focused on student engagement and success. I look forward to working collaboratively with everyone on-campus to make this year the best student experience ever. Have a great start to your fall semester!

Respectfully,

Henry Gee

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Rachel Garcia

From: Ruthie Retana
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 1:32 PM
To: AAA--All Staff
Subject: Rio's Freshman Success Center in the News

Calif. college's success plan includes new freshman center

By Community College Daily Staff



New students receive assistance at the recently opened Freshman Success Center at Rio Hondo College.

Photo: RHC

As students at [Rio Hondo College](#) (RHC) in California geared up for the first week of the spring semester, new and returning freshmen found a new resource to help them through the sometimes complex world of higher education.

The Freshman Success Center, which opened in the fall, offers first-time college students resources to help them in their first year, which is crucial in a student's overall academic success. Such services include counseling and help with registration and financial aid.

“Studies show that students who do well their first year in college are more likely to receive their degrees and transfer,” said Mike Muñoz, the college's acting dean of counseling and student success. “We want to ensure every student who attends Rio Hondo College has all the resources they need. The Freshman Success Center is a new tool we are utilizing to fulfill our goals within the [Student Success Initiative](#).”

That initiative was prompted by the state's 2012 Student Success Act, which funds community college services such as orientation, assessment, counseling and advising. Last month, Gov. Jerry Brown released his proposed 2014-15 budget showing an 11.4 percent increase in funding for community colleges with an emphasis on student success.

A plan for success

RHC's plan to implement the Student Success Initiative includes focusing on transfer and workforce preparation; being more responsive to student needs and the economy; and increasing student success rates for certificate and degree completion, as well as transfers to four-year institutions.

“Unfortunately, recent high school graduates have lower persistence, graduation and transfer rates than any of our students, yet they are the largest group of students at Rio Hondo College,” said Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfus. “By focusing resources toward their needs, we will have a better chance to increase their success, thus increasing the success of the college as a whole.”

The Freshman Resource Center is designed to manage a cohort of about 1,800 students and ensure they declare a program of study and develop an educational plan during their first year. Other services offered by the center include Freshmen Welcome Days and Freshman Success Seminars.

The center, which has assisted more than 1,000 students to date, is also available to help students develop their educational plans and provide assistance with their AccessRio portals, which is the college's information system where students can access registration, campus email, library resources and more.

<http://www.ccdaily.com/Pages/Academic-Programs/Calif-colleges-success-plan-includes-new-freshman-center.aspx>

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