P-16 Initiatives

College Connections News

Blinn College 2+2+2 Connection Program Information

VOLUME I, ISSUE 1

JULY 2009

P-16 Executive Committee Meeting

The P-16 Executive Council met on June 3, 2009 at the Blinn College Bryan Campus in an effort to set goals and create initial ideas for strategic planning of all P-16 Initiatives associated with Blinn College and the surrounding community. The ultimate goal of the P-16 Initiatives involves establishing a college-going culture within the Blinn College service area. The purpose of the Brazos County P-16 Council is to provide a platform for community stakeholders and strategic partners to present ideas and discuss issues of mutual concern related to college/university transfer and articulation programs, college readiness projects, the role of community colleges, teacher recruitment and retention, dual/concurrent enrollment, minority enrollment and assessment.

The P-16 initiatives focus on three key elements:
1.) Educational Partnerships that strengthen existing partnerships between Blinn College, local Independent School Districts, colleges, and universities.
2.) Community involvement programs and activities that create, develop, and sustain a strong commitment to a college going culture.
3.) Statewide initiatives that build strong relationships among statewide organizations in order to create support for the Blinn College P-16 mission.

Blinn College Express Advising

This fall, Blinn College will premier its newest option for students seeking academic advise-ment: the Express Advising Center. As an effort to increase student services, the Express Advising Center will help transfer students with the advising process. Students seeking traditional advisement through the Center for Student Development (CFSD) may be redirected to Express Advising, located within the Student Center (E-Building) on the Bryan campus. This will help alleviate the long lines students might experience from the summer rush of incoming freshmen.

To receive Express Advisement, students must be declared “College Ready” according to Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standards and be “File Complete”. Students can be declared “File Complete” by submitting a completed application with high school transcripts, test scores, and any dual or AP (Advanced Placement) credit to Blinn College Admissions office. Once his or her application has been processed, students must initially sign in with the CFSD in S-157. Under the discretion of the CFSD staff, eligible students will be redirected to the Express Advising Center.
Agriculture Student Advising Day

Blinn College assembled its first Agriculture Transfer Advising Event on Thursday, April 30, 2009 - Friday, May 1, 2009. The event launched on the Brenham campus and ceased the following day on the Bryan campus. This was an opportunity for Blinn students to meet with four-year universities administering agricultural programs. Prairie View A & M University, Texas A & M University, Texas A & M University-Kingsville, and Tarleton State University assisted with this event. A total of 126 students from both Bryan and Brenham campuses were in attendance for the two day advising session. During the event, participating universities had the opportunity to showcase their programs. Students had the opportunity to meet with advising representatives from their prospective universities to discuss transfer requirements, expectations, and course schedules. In addition, students received information on Agricultural scholarships. Blinn College advisors were also on hand to provide on-the-spot advising to students interested in transferring to the participating universities.

Around the Region

**February 2009**
State P-16 Council Meeting

**April 2009**
Texas A&M University Academic Operations Committee meeting at the Bryan Campus

**May 2009**
Dual Credit Senior Advising Days

**June 2009**
Brazos County P-16 Executive Council Meeting
Express Advising Center Grand Opening

Blinn and SHSU continue with Transfer Agreements

On February 27, 2009, Blinn College and Sam Houston State University announced the extension of their Transfer Articulation Agreements. The transfer agreement extension will provide students with the opportunity to transfer credit hours earned at Blinn College to Sam Houston State University for the next five years. In addition, students will continue to benefit from joint advising and admissions, reverse transfer opportunities, and University and time-compressed degree plans. By continuing with the Transfer agreements, both institutions hope to provide a smooth transition for transfer students as well as provide a fast-track education.

High school students in the Blinn 13-county service area can also take advantage of this opportunity by completing at least 12 hours of academic credit at one of Blinn Community College districts schools. For more information about this and other articulation agreements Blinn College offers, visit Blinn’s University Connections page at http://www.blinn.edu/articulations/index.htm or feel free to visit with a P-16 Academic Advisor.
Dual Credit Senior Advising Day

During the months of April and May 2009, the P-16 staff advised students wishing to enroll in dual credit classes through Blinn at participating Texas high schools. Advisors helped students at all levels of high school during the advising process.

During the Dual Credit Advising Days, advising helped students understand the importance of dual credit course work, choosing potential colleges and possible majors.

The P-16 advisors devoted an entire week to the Bryan Collegiate High School where they helped approximately 89 students. Students from all walks of life and educational goals learned of classes they should take through Blinn that would ease their transition to four year universities.

From Dr. Dabney’s Desk

The Blinn College P-16 Initiatives lead and coordinate Blinn College programs and activities to encourage and support collaboration and a strong interconnection between educator quality and student success through partnerships and relationships between K-12 schools, universities, and community leaders within the Blinn college service area. The Blinn College 2 + 2 + 2 College Connection Program grant, awarded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), will provide support to district-wide partnerships and initiatives driven by the Blinn College P-16 Council Strategic Plan. Strategic goals established by the grant proposal include:

1.) Maintain affordable advising, counseling, and testing services for high school seniors and Blinn College students;
2. Coordinate strategic academic, mentoring, and recruitment program activities to encourage university transfer among students who are at risk of ending their postsecondary education without credential completion or a baccalaureate degree;
3. Strengthen the partnerships and relationships Blinn College has with P-12, University, and community leaders through strategic planning, data collection, and information sharing;
4. Establish a Transfer Center on the Blinn College Bryan Campus to serve as a central location for Blinn College students to explore the university programs by our four-year college and university partners; and
5. Establish individual P-16 Council organizations within the Bryan/College Station, Schulenburg, and Sealy service areas to increase in the level and ease of communication between institutions.

Goals for the 2009-2010 academic year include implementing a college-wide marketing plan for P-16 Initiatives, establishing a P-16 Council in the Brazos County area, and developing a strategic plan for the Brazos County P-16 Council.

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To accommodate the large number of students who visit the Advising Center at the Bryan Campus, the P-16 Academic Advisors will begin working a flex-schedule from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. starting February 2009. Increasing the hours came about due to the large number of students served from February 2009 to June 2009. During that time, the P-16 Academic Advising staff saw a total of 2,665 students and visitors in The Center for Student Development at the Bryan Campus. Besides working with students wanting advisement in order to register for classes, the P-16 advisors dedicate their energies to working with parents and to assisting prospective students hoping to attend Blinn College in the future. Extending hours means more quality time spent with students, parents, and visitors. This quality time makes each advising session seem more personal, gives the advisor time to fully and completely answer questions, and has resulted in students and parents feeling that they were totally served in an un rushed and friendly atmosphere. Many students, especially first-time freshmen and newcomers to Blinn College, make statements at the end of advising sessions suggesting that they feel much more comfortable and confident about starting classes due to the time spent with P-16 advisors. In effect, the P-16 Academic Advisors appear to be making the transferring and transitioning to Blinn smoother and more pleasant for students and parents.