Achieving the Dream helps participating colleges implement strategies designed to help more students earn degrees, complete certificates or transfer to other institutions to continue their studies. The initiative emphasizes building a culture of evidence, in which colleges use data to identify effective practices, improve student success rates, and close achievement gaps.

Blinn College is one of 20 new community colleges in seven states to join Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count, a national initiative to help more community college students succeed, particularly those students who traditionally face the most significant barriers to success including minority students and low-income students. With the addition of these colleges, the initiative has grown to include 102 institutions – 98 colleges and four universities in 22 states.

Each new college has made a two-year commitment to focus its efforts on closing performance gaps among students in targeted populations. This most recent expansion of Achieving the Dream has been made possible with grants provided by four foundations including the Greater Texas Foundation.

Achieving the Dream was launched in 2004, with funding provided by Lumina Foundation for Education. Seven national partner organizations work with Lumina to guide the initiative and provide technical and other support to the colleges and states. They are: the American Association of Community Colleges; the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas-Austin; the Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University; Jobs for the Future; MDC Inc.; MDRC; and Public Agenda. MDC is the initiative’s managing partner.

Dr. Cathy Kemper remarks that “Achieving the Dream is an exciting opportunity for Blinn College to focus its student success agenda. It allows us to integrate existing initiatives into a cohesive and informed approach to increasing successful course, certificate, and degree completion for all students.”

The University Transfer Center (UTC) will serve as a resource center to students preparing for transfer to baccalaureate granting institutions and as a focal point for information concerning programs, resources and services to ensure a smooth transition to four-year colleges and universities.

Students will have access to university articulation agreements and a current catalog collection from Texas public universities including: Texas A&M University, Sam Houston State University, Texas State University-San Marcos, University of Houston, and The University of Texas.

The Center will also have computer workstations to allow students access to university web pages, electronic transfer and articulation guides, and scholarship opportunities. Additionally, the P-16 Academic Advising team will be available to meet one-on-one with students to assist them with academic planning, choosing a major, academic course selection, and the transfer application process. Representatives from four-year institutions will also be available for individual appointments to evaluate student records and facilitate the university transfer process.

The University Transfer Center is located on the Bryan Campus next to the Library and the Science Building and will be open Monday – Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information, please call (979) 209-7446.
Transfer Agreement with Online University

Blinn College students planning to complete their bachelor's degree in criminal justice have an online option. Blinn and Kaplan University established an articulation agreement for students to earn a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice after completing either an Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice or an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice Technology. Also, Blinn alumni and employees receive a ten percent discount on Kaplan tuition. The U.S. Department of Labor lists law enforcement job opportunities as excellent with officers making median annual earnings of $47,460 (May 2006). For more information on this and other articulation agreements, visit Blinn’s University Connections page at www.blinn.edu/articulations/.

Kaplan University is part of Kaplan Higher Education, which serves 100,000 students across the United States and in Europe. Kaplan Higher Education is part of Kaplan, Inc., a subsidiary of The Washington Post Company.

University Highlight: Baylor University

Baylor University is a private, four-year institution located in Waco, TX. Baylor was established in 1845 with a mission “to educate men and women for worldwide leadership and service by integrating academic excellence and Christian commitment within a caring community.” With more than 14,000 students working toward degrees in 151 areas of study, pre-professional tracks, and specialized academic opportunities, Baylor offers an outstanding array of educational opportunities.

Baylor promotes exemplary teaching, encourages innovative and original research, and supports professional excellence in various specialized disciplines. Kiplinger’s Finance magazine has even named Baylor University in the nation’s top 50 “Best Value in Private Colleges.” Visit the Baylor website and review the transfer equivalency guides, and transfer student scholarship applications online at: www.baylor.edu/admissions/transfers.

New Director for the Center for Student Development

Blinn College’s Bryan campus welcomes Mr. D. Wayne Harvey as the Director of the Center for Student Development. He received a B.S. in Industrial Arts and Physical Education, an M.A. in Industrial Technology and Management, and is currently in the process of completing an Ed. D. in Educational Leadership from Sam Houston State University.

Mr. Harvey was self employed for over 20 years and also enjoyed a successful career with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Texas Correctional Industries where he retired with more than 15 years of service. Most recently, Mr. Harvey served as an academic advisor for all undergraduate majors on the Sam Houston State University campus and as the Sam Advisor at the Bryan and Brenham Blinn College campuses. He occasionally serves as a lecturer for the department of Agriculture and Industrial Sciences at Sam Houston State University.

The number one goal for the Center is to increase student satisfaction with the services offered. The most significant issue at this time is the amount of time a student must wait to be advised during rush times. Mr. Harvey and his staff are working to help resolve this issue. For more information, please call (979) 209-7455.
The College Connections 2+2+2 Grant provided the means for Blinn College P-16 Initiatives to fund four part-time academic advisors in an effort to provide additional advising support to the Center for Student Development. Given the enrollment increase Blinn College has experienced, the Center for Student Development felt the increase in advising demands as well. Academic advisors welcome the increase in advising numbers, however, especially because it provides an opportunity to help students make valuable decisions about their chosen degree path. Below are the advising numbers for the months of August and September.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Advising (Bryan Campus) 2009</th>
<th>P-16 Staff* Advising Totals</th>
<th>P-16 Staff* Students Served</th>
<th>P-16 Staff* Parents Served</th>
<th>P-16 Staff* FAFSA Assistance</th>
<th>P-16 Staff* Transfer Center</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>2282</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>121</td>
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<td>72</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>742</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*P-16 Academic Advising Hours of Operation – 8 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (4 Part-Time Advisors)

New Lead Academic Advisor on Board

Blinn College P-16 Initiatives would like to welcome Patricia Donnell, Ph. D., a native of Brenham, TX, as the Lead Academic Advisor for the University Transfer Center set to open at Blinn College's Bryan campus in the spring 2010 semester.

Dr. Donnell served as a public school teacher for seven years and as a public school counselor for eight years. While pursuing her doctoral degree at Texas A&M, Dr. Donnell completed her counseling internship at the Blinn College's Brenham campus where she advised, counseled, and tutored students. Additionally, she has experience in teaching developmental courses both at Blinn College and Prairie View A&M University. In 2004, she received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with a minor in English from Texas A&M University. She then continued her teaching career by teaching graduate level courses for the counseling department at Prairie View A&M University, including Appraisal Techniques, Small Group Counseling, and Counseling Techniques.

Dr. Donnell is also a trained mediator in conflict resolution among students, parents, and teachers.

To contact Dr. Donnell, please email her at patty.donnell@blinn.edu, or call her at (979) 209-7446.

Newsletter Registration Form

Refer a Friend or register yourself for a FREE newsletter. Fax this form to: (979) 209-7479

Name ____________________________________________________________

Organization ____________________________________________________

Title/Position ____________________________________________________

Address __________________________ City __________ State ______ Zip ______

Work Phone __________________________ Email __________________________ Fax ____________
Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming P-16 Activities

January 2010: University Transfer Center Grand Opening

January 11, 2010: Café con Leche—Blinn College Bryan Campus Banquet Hall at 6 p.m. Café con Leche is an outreach program designed to provide parents of Latino and/or Hispanic students with information pertaining to higher education, including admissions, financial aid, scholarships, and housing applications.

January 29, 2010: Texas A&M Transfer Information Day

Coming Soon: Blinn College/Kaplan University Articulation Agreement for Allied Health