Blinn College: Café Con Leche

Café con Leche, which translates to “coffee with milk,” is an outreach program created and implemented by the University of Texas System’s Institute for Public School Initiatives (IPSI). Café con Leche is designed to create an informal setting where parents and educators come together to discuss issues related to higher education. Ideally, the program is targeted to Hispanic and Latino parents, given the Closing the Gaps 2015 initiative, but all parents are welcome to attend since information regarding college admissions, financial aid, housing, and scholarship processes are discussed. Café con Leche strives to debunk myths associated with higher education by facilitating a conversation with parents over coffee and pastries.

Mr. Gonzalo Robles, Area Coordinator for IPSI, facilitated a training session for 15 Blinn faculty and staff members during lunch in which he provided strategies and examples for Blinn faculty and staff to use when conducting future Café con Leche sessions.

Later in the evening, the Café con Leche program drew a small crowd of parents, prospective students, and current students to the Bryan Campus Banquet Hall. Again, Robles reiterated that Texas is in a crisis when it comes to recruiting Latino and Hispanic students to higher education.

Youth to Career Fair

Over the past 12 years, the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce has been providing information on a variety of careers to students in the Brazos Valley. More than 70 local businesses packed the Brazos Valley Expo Complex on Nov. 4 with close to 190 business owners or employees sharing with students what their day-to-day job entailed. The annual event set a new attendance record as more than 3,000 eighth grade students from public and private schools from all of the Brazos Valley counties were bussed in to participate in the free event.

Students were given an hour to walk through the Expo Complex and visit with the various business presenters who represented many various professions including health services, government, engineering, journalism and finance among others. The aim of the event is that those eighth grade students will find a career path that interests them, and then they can work with their counselor or parent in choosing high school courses that may help direct them into that profession.

In order to ensure the annual event is a success, the Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Sylvan Learning Center, Blinn College, Education Service Center Region VI, and both Bryan and College Station school districts. Partnering allows the event to be free to attending schools and the local business presenters.

Story courtesy of Jordan Meserole of the B/CS Chamber of Commerce.
Transfer Agreement Online TAMU - Biomedical

This agreement serves to facilitate the transfer of students from Blinn College to the Biomedical Science program (BIMS) in the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Full-time Blinn College students who complete their degree plan will be admitted to the BIMS program automatically, provided they meet all admission requirements to Texas A&M University.

Students must have maintained no less than a cumulative 3.60 GPA at Blinn College and must have completed 69 hours of transferable course work on their degree plan. No grade below a “B” in all of a student’s Common Body of Knowledge (CBK) science and math course work will be allowed.

The agreement will be reviewed annually and may be amended by mutual written consent of both parties by issuing an addendum to this agreement. This agreement will commence effective the Spring 2009 semester with a five year commitment. This agreement is mutually exclusive of any other partnership agreement entered between Blinn College and Texas A&M University. (www.tamu.edu)

University Transfer Center Scholarships

The University Transfer Center on the Bryan Campus has information pertaining to numerous scholarships that are awarded to Blinn College students who transfer to four-year universities including Sam Houston State University and Stephen F. Austin State University. Both the SHSU and the SFA Transfer Scholarships are automatically offered in the fall and spring semester to qualifying undergraduate students who meet transfer hour and GPA criteria. For more information, visit the SHSU Transfer Student Scholarship website at: http://www.shsu.edu/~fao_www/xfersscholarship.html or SFA’s Community College Transfer Student Scholarship website at: http://www.sfasu.edu/admissions/scholarships/cctransferprogram.asp.

New Director of School Relations

Jennifer Bynum is serving Blinn College in the department of Student Services as the Director for School Relations. This position involves working with superintendents and board members to develop a strategic plan for their district and getting input from school district administration about what Blinn can provide for their students. Bynum coordinates meetings with a team of directors who also works in the school districts. Communication with school districts and Blinn directors is an important part of this position.

Bynum was a Vice-Principal in the Clear Creek Independent School District for four years. Her experience as a campus administrator included coordinating the special education programs, supervising the state and local testing for the campus, evaluating teachers and staff, working with student discipline, and communicating with parents, teachers and other school district administrators.

For three years Bynum taught third grade as well as students with learning disabilities in a special education classroom. She has experience teaching diverse learners and holds certifications for ESL, special education, and Dyslexia Intervention training.

Her educational background includes a Master’s degree in Educational Administration from the University of Houston in Clear Lake and a Bachelor’s degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Texas A&M in College Station. She is certified as an educator and principal in the state of Texas.
October and November 2009 Advising Totals

The College Connections 2+2+2 Grant provided the means for Blinn College P-16 Initiatives to fund four part-time advisors and a full-time lead advisor 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 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 October and November.

<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>Oct.</td>
<td>2288</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>471</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>168</td>
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<td>Totals</td>
<td>5040</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Schoolenburg Campus News

More than 60 area students and their parents attended a College Planning Workshop on Blinn College’s Schulenburg Campus on Dec. 3, 2009. The attendees gained valuable information related to testing, admissions, and financial aid. Representatives from Schulenburg and Weimar in Focus Together (SWIFT) offered assistance to parents in completing college applications and FAFSA online forms. Information was provided to students about applying for Stanzel Foundation Scholarships. Additional informational sessions are planned for Jan. 28 and Feb. 11 from 6-8 p.m. on the Schulenburg Campus. For more information about these sessions go to http://go.blinn.edu/showcasedays/index.htm or call 979-743-5222.

Fifth grade students from La Grange ISD participated in the unique learning opportunity offered through the If I Had a Hammer Program on Blinn College’s Schulenburg Campus where students engaged in a fun, hands-on approach to learning mathematics. This approach helps to reduce student anxiety while improving mathematical skills and attitude. The students toured the nursing lab, the interactive video classrooms, and the Schaefer Observatory. For more information about the If I Had a Hammer Program, go to http://www.ifihadahammer.com/. To schedule this program for your school in the Schulenburg area, call Becky Garlick at 979-743-5222 or call Hank Ward at 979-251-6292 in the Brenham or Bryan area.

Story courtesy of Rebecca Garlick, Director of Schulenburg Campus

Newsletter Registration Form

Refer a Friend or register yourself for a FREE newsletter. Fax this form to: (979) 209-7450

Name

Organization

Title/Position

Address ____________________________________________ City __________________________ State _____ Zip _____

Work Phone __________________________ Email __________________________ Fax ________________

To submit information for “Around the Region” please send electronic copies of your articles and/or photos to Dr. Valachis Dabney at val.dabney@blinn.edu. Please let us know about all the P-16, College Connections, and University Transfer Advising education events planned for the students in your schools/districts/colleges. If you have any questions, call Dr. Dabney at (979) 209-7446.
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Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming P-16 Activities

January 25, 2010: SFA Transfer Information Day
January 29, 2010: Texas A&M Transfer Information Day
February 10, 2010: Baylor Transfer Information Day
February 12, 19, & 26, 2010: Financial Aid Fridays (9:00a.m.-1:00p.m.)
March 4 & 5, 2010: University Transfer Center Tentative Grand Opening
April 2010: Café con Leche planned—details to come!

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