Action Project

Title: Student Retention and Success
Version: 1

Institution: University of Minnesota, Crookston  Status: Active
Submitted: 2011-05-09  Category: 1-Helping Students Learn

Timeline
Planned project kickoff date: 2011-05-01
Target completion date: 2012-04-30
Actual completion date:

Project Detail

Project Goal
Describe this Action Project’s goal in 100 words or fewer

The goal of this project is to improve student retention:

1. Develop a consistent set of metrics summarizing UMC’s retention and graduation rates compared to identified peer institutions and other campuses of the University of Minnesota.
2. Summarize retention rates within groups of UMC students including:
   1. New high school students who have declared a major
   2. New advanced standing
   3. New high school students who are undecided
   4. Non-traditional students
3. Analyze potential factors involving retention and leading to high risk of not being retained
4. Implement trial programs directed at improving retention among high risk groups identified through this analysis

Reasons For Project
Describe briefly your institution’s reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities

UMC’s retention and graduation rates appear to be relatively low compared to other campuses of the University and to our peer institutions. We need to develop a consistent set of metrics to measure these rates and make improvements. The U of M has given UMC a challenge to improve the rates and has provided goals to achieve. Improving retention and graduation rates is also an all University priority.

Organizational Areas Affected
List the organizational areas -- institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units -- most affected by or involved in this Action Project

The Admissions department, the Admissions Committee, the Retention Committee and the Academic Assistance Center.

Key Organizational Process(es)
Name and describe briefly the key organizational process(es) that you expect this Action Project to change or improve
This will impact primarily:

1. Admissions criteria and type of admission
2. Support services provided by the Academic Assistance Center

### Project Time Frame Rationale

Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion)

Completing this project in April will allow time to track fall semester data along with initial retention data for spring semester.

### Project Success Monitoring

Describe how you plan to monitor how successfully your efforts on this Action Project are progressing

The project leader will report to the AQIP Steering Committee on a regular basis with:

1. Objectives 1 and 2 completed during the first 3 months of the project
2. Objective 3 completed by the end of month 6 of the project
3. Objective 4 completed during the last 6 months of the project

### Project Outcome Measures

Describe the overall "outcome" measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals

Short term measures of success at the end of the project will be:

- Development of associated metrics along with easy access
- Analysis of metrics to determine high risk groups
- Implementation of programs to address retention for students in high risk groups

Long term measures will be:

- Increase in retention rates
- Increase in graduation rates