



A Note from the Associate Vice Chancellor *Student Services*

April 7, 2014

To All Los Rios Faculty and Staff

As we continue to make progress on new initiatives that have begun this semester, I wanted to highlight some exciting news about how well our students are navigating the mandated services of the Student Success Initiative. The attached newsletter is the first in a series intended to keep you apprised of how our students are doing and to share some of the research conducted in support of student success. This issue highlights the work of the Research and Planning Group of the California Community Colleges, including 10 ways all members of our organization can support the success of our students by helping them feel directed, focused, nurtured, engaged, connected and valued.

I hope you find this first newsletter helpful as you continue the dialogue on your campuses about charting a roadmap for a college-wide focus on student success. I look forward to sharing with you future issues that continue to highlight how Los Rios initiatives and our college's best practices are transforming how we deliver student services and helping more students from all backgrounds achieve their career and educational goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria C. Rosario".



Improving Student Success in
California Community Colleges

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
STUDENT
SUCCESS
INITIATIVE



NEWS

April 2014

Keeping up with Student Success at the Los Rios Colleges

The Rollout of the Student Success Initiative

The Student Success Act of 2012 was signed by Gov. Jerry Brown to help more California community college students reach their goal of earning a degree, certificate, career advancement or transferring to a four-year institution. The Student Success Act outlines recommendations to guide community colleges in implementing this initiative. Since then, these recommendations are beginning to emerge as exciting new programs at community colleges throughout California, including the Los Rios Community College District.

Since Jan. 1, 2014, a large number of Los Rios students have successfully taken part in the mandated services outlined in Title 5, section 55520. The data below show that students are receiving these services in greater numbers than this time last year. The number of students who completed the new online orientation, for example, is 66% higher than those reported in the prior spring term. Here are the counts for January 1, 2014 through April 4, 2014:

Services	Spring 2013	Spring 2014
Orientation	2,072	6,160 (Released Feb. 1)
Assessment	4,902	9,029
Educational Plans	24,102	12,954

The delivery of student services at the Los Rios colleges is changing to keep pace with the diverse needs of our students. While technology has been key to addressing the needs of a large student body, our commitment remains to ensuring that students have access to counselors, support staff and faculty that are focused on helping students succeed.

Key Dates

October 17: SSSP Plans Due

November 21: Student Equity Plans Due

What You Can Do to Ensure Students Experience Success?



Everyone can contribute to the success of students. The primary goal of the *2011 Los Rios Community College District Strategic Plan* is to promote student success—helping students achieve their educational goals. From the report, *10 Ways Faculty Can Support Students' Success: Helping Students Achieve the Six Success Factors*, by the RP Group, we share the six success factors that students need to be successful—directed, focused, nurtured, engaged, connected and valued. Because every contact with a member of our college community can make a difference in the life of a student, here are some ways that staff and faculty alike can help students achieve their success in and outside the classroom:

- 1) Asking students about their educational and career goals
- 2) Integrating career and educational goal exploration into course assignments
- 3) Providing regular and meaningful feedback to students about their performance and progress
- 4) Regularly asking students if they understand the course material and directing them to available assistance when needed
- 5) Learning their students' names and asking them how they are doing
- 6) Creating opportunities for students to provide feedback on their experience in your course throughout the term
- 7) Showing students that you are proud to work at your institution and that they should be proud to be enrolled at a Los Rios community college
- 8) Providing opportunities for and encouraging students to connect with and support each other
- 9) Incorporating opportunities for students to share their personal and family history and culture in class assignments
- 10) Connecting or providing students with opportunities to help their peers

To read more about RP group's *Student Support Report* go to: www.rpgroup.org/projects/student-support

Student Success Events at Los Rios: From Past to Future

Last October, approximately 147 members of the Los Rios community came together for the LRCCD Student Success Task Force Institute Summit, which was held at ARC. The summit included a special presentation by Vice Chancellor Linda Michalowski of the California Community Colleges' System Office. Michalowski provided an overview of the reforms of the Student Success Act. Attendees, including students, staff, faculty and administrators from the colleges and the district, teamed up to provide essential input to meet student needs in the process of implementing the Student Success initiatives.

Since then, the work groups established in the fall worked collaboratively to successfully roll out the Student Success initiative.

In an effort to continue the successful implementation of Student Success throughout the Los Rios colleges, two spring work groups, Assessment and Program Plan, are being established. The focus of the Assessment Work Group will be to: 1) Explore a collective database for assessment; 2) Align business and petition processes; 3) Identify preparation opportunities that exist for students between tests so they can get assistance before starting the course sequence (tutoring, boot camps, pre-tests, Accuplacer Diagnostics); and 4) Cost out technology improvements needed.

The Program Plan Work Group will work to describe district wide services in support of the colleges' effort as the colleges prepare plans that are due to the Chancellor's Office in October.



147 Attendees



Linda Michalowski, Vice Chancellor of the California Community Colleges System Office

LRMA Workshop Series:

Investing in a Shared Instructional and Student Services Vision for the Student Success and Support Program Plan

On Feb. 25, 40 members of the Los Rios Management Association assembled to address revitalizing and re-envisioning professional development as called for in the Student Success Task Force recommendations. Attendees included representatives from various segments of the Los Rios Colleges.

Victoria Rosario, Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Services, presented an overview of the districtwide online orientation and its successful release. Celia Esposito-Noy, Vice President of Student Services at CRC, provided an overview and relevance of the *10 Ways Faculty Can Support Student's Success: Helping Students Achieve the Six Success Factors*, report by RP Group. Manuel Perez, Dean of Student Development, ARC, and Adam Karp, Dean of Fine and Applied Arts, ARC, conducted a real-time survey that reflected participant knowledge about Student Success initiatives.

In addition, members from each college participated in group activities to identify methods for faculty and staff to become involved with the implementation of the Student Success initiatives, and how faculty can assist students to meet the Student Success requirements for priority registration and reach academic success. Some outcomes included: training; Flex activities; partnership with student services to inform and connect students to programs and services; and potential processes for informing students.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW??

Two **new** and **important** communication **notifications** were developed for:

- 1) Students on Academic Probation 1 by the end of fall term, and
- 2) Students who have completed 75% of 90 units

Students with the above criteria will be notified via email about how to prepare for the upcoming enrollment cycle.

To review the letters, please visit:

http://www.losrios.edu/lrc/lrc_reg.php

COMING SOON...

Are you interested in learning how instruction can assist with carrying out SSSP?

A retreat is anticipated for fall 2014.

More details coming soon!

About Los Rios

The Los Rios Community College District is one of the nation's most respected learning institutions and the second-largest community college district in California, serving the greater Sacramento region. Los Rios includes: American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake and Sacramento City colleges; six major education and outreach centers; and specialized workforce and economic development programs for regional businesses, governments and organizations. Los Rios colleges offer AA/AS degrees, certificates and transfer-education opportunities in more than 70 career fields. The District's 2,400-square mile service area includes all of Sacramento County, most of El Dorado County and parts of Yolo, Placer and Solano counties. About 77,000 students are enrolled in the four Los Rios colleges. For more information, go to www.losrios.edu.