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,
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Spring 2013</th>
<th>Spring 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>2,072</td>
<td>6,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>4,902</td>
<td>9,029</td>
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<td>Educational Plans</td>
<td>24,102</td>
<td>12,954</td>
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(Released Feb. 1)

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

To read more about RP group’s Student Support Report go to: [www.rpgroup.org/projects/student-support](http://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.

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.

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.