



I.E. Success Stories

Institutional Effectiveness....Mapping Excellence!

A Publication of The Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment
A Unit of the Information Services & Planning Division of South Texas College

Volume 10, Issue 2

June 2014

Greetings, Jaguars!

I hope the year ended on a high note for you, and the staff at the IEA Office wishes you a restful and happy summer—whether you are working, teaching, or taking a much-needed break.

On July 1, the Institutional Effectiveness Mid-Biennium reports will be due. Our staff has condensed the process into a short series of three questions for each measurable outcome. It is important to ask the right questions, and it is helpful to work systematically to accomplish tasks. It is our intention to make the Mid-Biennium reporting process as efficient as possible, while at the same time allowing you to reflect on a year's progress toward two-year goals.

Many plan writers have attended our workshops, and we are always available to help you complete this task. We are also available to assist you with any adjustments you would want to make. Plans are malleable, and we are happy to help you reconsider any of your plans.

As we enter the months with intense heat and better parking spots, please remember that parking is never better than it is on the lot at 2501 West Pecan! Feel free to email, call, or stop by the IEA Office. We would welcome a visit.

Best,

Paul T. Henley, Ph.D.



This month:

- ⇒ Visual Arts & Music Dept. Improves Opportunities to Experience New Media
- ⇒ College Success Dept. Increases Course Pass Rates
- ⇒ Communication Arts Dept. Strengthens to Community through Service Learning
- ⇒ Political Science Dept. Increases Graduation Rates
- ⇒ English Dept. Increases Course Completion Rates

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The new Visual Arts & Music “Mac Lab” where students engage in graphic design and other activities.

The South Texas College Visual Arts & Music program promotes the understanding and appreciation of the visual and musical arts for students, faculty & staff, and the communities of our South Texas College campuses.

Improving Opportunities to Experience New Media Department of Visual Arts and Music

The Department of Visual Arts and Music:

The Department of Visual Arts & Music provides instruction leading to the Associate of Arts in Fine Arts—a degree with a visual arts, graphic arts, or music concentration. All three degrees focus on establishing a solid foundation in theory, composition, and professional applications while preparing the student for the transfer to a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree and subsequent employment in the various commercial creative arts fields. The goals of this department include improving student success, promoting community involvement and service learning,

and providing campus and community exposure to various art media and music forms.

Introduction:

For the 2011-2013 IE Cycle, the Department of Visual & Musical Arts had seven goals, 11 objectives, and 12 measures/findings that would result in increased retention rates and graduates, increased numbers of majors and transfers to four-year programs, improved media experiences, increased community involvement and service learning, and improved communication.

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Improving Opportunities to Experience New Media Department of Visual Arts and Music

Featured Objective:

- ◇ **Objective #4** Improve Opportunities to Experience New Media—Increase exposure to a variety of art media and processes. Increase exposure to a variety of musical instruments and musical styles.

Measures:

- ◇ Learning materials will be acquired in order to expose students to new artistic mediums, provide for more diversity of course offerings, and to improve the educational experience. **Achievement Target** - Acquire at least two new forms of art media.

Strategies:

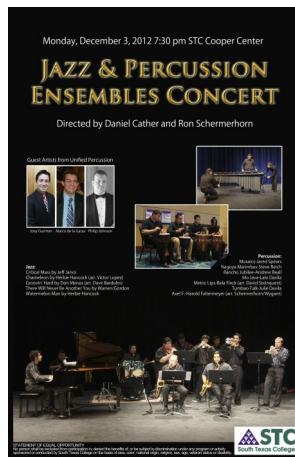
- ◇ The Dept. of VAM has purchased new instruments for the Music Department which includes a Clavinova and various percussion instruments.
- ◇ The VAM Dept. pursued the possibility of upgrading the Graphics Design lab to increase the number of students that can enroll in the course.

Results:

In an effort to reach the target goal the department did the following: Established new music ensembles, a jazz ensemble, a guitar ensemble, a string ensemble, and a percussion ensemble; hired a percussion instructor; purchased new percussion equipment for the ever growing percussion program; received approval to upgrade the Mac Lab for our graphics design program; received approval to remodel the sculpture studio; hired a graphics design instructor; purchased photographic lighting equipment for training students in professional lighting; purchased a new Clavinova keyboard instrument; received permission to use nude models in Drawing II class; and, strengthened the graphics design program to provide students training for commercial/professional work.

Recommendations:

- ◇ Complete the upgrade to the existing Mac Lab and begin work on establishing a second Mac Lab at the Mid-Valley Campus.
- ◇ Expand the current Mac Lab at the Pecan Campus into B-129 as a second Mac Lab.
- ◇ Seek a new graphics design instructor to replace the instructor who departed mid-year 2012-2013.
- ◇ Receive final approval for a remodeling of the ceramics studio and completion of the remodeling of the painting studio at the Mid-Valley Campus.
- ◇ Add a new music instructor that would teach all brass instruments.



New instruments allow the department to provide more classes and expand the college's community fine arts program.

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The College Success Department Increases Course Pass Rates

The College Success Department:

The College Success department at South Texas College promotes a “college-going” culture in South Texas by teaching new students the habits and skills necessary to succeed in higher education.



College Success Department (l-r) Rick Rodriguez, Rene Zuniga, Dr. Lydia Bean, and Dr. Rufino Garcia

Introduction:

The College Success department's 2011-2013 IE Plan consisted of 6 objectives supporting 3 IE goals. The following story highlights the department's successful improvement of course pass rates during the 2011-2013 IE cycle.

Featured Objective:

- ◇ #1: The course pass rate will be improved over the previous year by continuous improvements being made to the course curriculum.

Measure:

- ◇ Course pass rates for Fall-to-Fall and Spring-to-Spring will be measured each year for College Success students. **Target:** Course pass rates will increase by 5% from Fall-to-Fall and Spring-to-Spring.

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The College Success Department Increases Course Pass Rates

Strategies:

- ◇ Student ESAP results were used to identify areas of weakness within the curriculum, and changes were made to address areas of weakness.
- ◇ South Texas College's Early Alert System was utilized to identify at-risk students.
- ◇ Faculty participated in professional development opportunities related to best practices in teaching and student learning.



Results:

- ◇ According to the Pass Rates and Grade Distribution by Course and Instructional Mode report found on the STC Interactive Fact Book, the pass rate for College Success courses decreased slightly from Fall 2010 to Fall 2011 by 1%. However, the pass rate increased by 8% from Fall 2011 to Fall 2012.
- ◇ The pass rate decreased slightly from Spring 2011 to Spring 2012 by 1%. However, the pass rate increased by 7% from Spring 2012 to Spring 2013.

Recommendations:

- ◇ South Texas College's Early Alert system will continue to be used to identify students who are at-risk of not completing College Success courses.
- ◇ Student communication will increase via telephone, email, and on-campus visits with retention specialists.

Division, Program, and Course	# Sections	# Enrolled	PASSED					# P.	% P.
			# A	# B	# C	# P	# P.		
Fall 2010	119	3,197	1,143	802	427	18	2,390	75%	
Fall 2011	101	2,914	1,158	613	373	19	2,163	74%	
Fall 2012	74	2,268	1,075	531	256	6	1,868	82%	
Spring 2011	79	1,528	503	315	228	10	1,056	69%	
Spring 2012	62	1,132	437	189	140	7	773	68%	
Spring 2013	37	754	343	135	85	3	566	75%	
Grand Total	472	11,793	4,659	2,585	1,509	63	8,816	75%	





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A Company of Wayward Saints presented by South Texas College's Drama program

The Communication Arts Department Strengthens Ties to the South Texas Community Through Service Learning

The Communication Arts Department:

The Communication Arts department at South Texas College offers two associate degrees: an Associate of Arts in [Speech](#) and an Associate of Arts in [Drama](#). Both degrees focus on completion of the core curriculum as well as establishing a solid foundation in theory, composition, and professional applications while preparing the students for transfer to a Bachelor of Arts degree and subsequent employment in the fields of communication or drama.

Featured Objective:

- ◇ #9: Require graduates to complete a number of hours of service learning or complete an internship to increase ties with the community and to promote community involvement.



Dracula

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The Communication Arts Department Strengthens Ties to the South Texas Community Through Service Learning



The Man Who Came To Dinner

Measure:

- ◇ The percentage of students participating in service learning projects and internships will be tracked. **Target:** 70% of students who graduate with an Associates degree will participate in service learning projects or internships.

Strategies:

- ◇ Service learning and internship projects were added to both the Communication and the Drama program.
- ◇ Partnerships were formed with local agencies where students could fulfill their service learning and internship requirements.
- ◇ The number of service learning and internship hours were tracked for each Communication and Drama major.

Results:

- ◇ The number of Communication students participating in the service learning project in the SPCH 2333 Discussion and Small Group Communication Class are as follows: Fall 2011 (19), Spring 2012 (8), Fall 2012 (11), Spring 2013 (5). The total number of students participating in a service learning project for SPCH 2333 during Fall 2011

through Spring 2013 is 43. The number of students participating in either a service learning project or an internship in the SPCH 2289 Academic Coop class are as follows: Fall 2011 (0), Spring 2012 (10), Fall 2012 (2), Spring 2013 (8). The total number of students participating in either a service learning project or internship during Fall 2011 and Spring 2013 is 20. One hundred percent of students graduating with AA in Communication participated in either a service learning project or internship.

- ◇ The number of Drama majors participating in service learning in the Drama Practicum courses (DRAM 1120, 1121, 2120) and the Drama Academic Coop course (DRAM 2389) during Fall 2011 – Summer 2013 are as follows: Fall 2011 (14), Spring 2012 (25), Summer I 2012 (4), Fall 2012 (11), Spring 2013 (14), Summer I 2013 (8). The total number of Drama students participating in service learning between Fall 2011 – Summer I 2013 is 76. One hundred percent of students graduating with an AA-Drama degree participated in service learning.



The Brothers Grimm



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The Political Science Department at STC is committed to producing students who are knowledgeable about the operation of Texas and national government and have the ability to think critically about important political topics that will prepare them for transfer to institutions of higher learning and provide a framework for lifetime learning skills.

Increasing Graduation Rates Political Science Department of the LASS Division

The Department of Political Science:

The Political Science Department at STC is committed to producing students who are knowledgeable about the operation of Texas and national government and have the ability to think critically about important political topics that will prepare them for transfer to higher institutions of learning and provide a framework for lifetime learning skills.

Introduction:

The 2011-2013 IE Plan of the Political Science Department included nine Goals and nine Objec-

tives that included improving student learning and success, professional development, the promotion and expansion of the department, cost effectiveness, and increasing political knowledge and participation while meeting the needs of the college and greater community. In order to meet these goals, the department worked towards having presentations from government officials, developing/expanding the Political Science Club, and promoting learning and faculty development.

Featured Objective:

Objective #4: Students in the CSI cohorts will be tracked by the assistant chair, who will work with

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Increasing Graduation Rates Political Science Department of the LASS Division

them to ensure that they are on track for timely graduation.

Measure(s):

Advising of majors who are in a CSI cohort. The assistant chair will contact each major who is in a cohort once a semester to advise them and to ensure that they are on track for timely graduation. The asst. chair will keep a record of each contact.

Target: The assistant chair will contact each major who is in a cohort once a semester to advise them and to ensure that they are on track for timely graduation.

Strategies:

Assistant chair Peter Doas regularly reviews the status of all Political Science majors, including those in CSI cohorts, to ensure that they are progressing toward graduation. He completes degree plans for all majors every semester and advises them as to which courses they need to take in order to stay on track for graduation. We have had a number of problems with getting students to complete the application for graduation, even though they had met all of the requirements for graduation. In addition, the new on-line graduation application

tool has presented some problems. Specifically, it does not recognize earlier versions of our degree plan. By working directly with students, these problems were addressed and/or circumvented in order to move our students on towards graduation.

Assistant Chair Peter Doas works with all Political Science majors to ensure that they are making expected progress towards graduation. He contacts all Political Science majors by mail and by email. He also advises students by telephone and in person as needed. Finally he develops a degree plan for each student to make sure that they are aware of what classes they still need to take in order to graduate.

Results: As a result of this hard work, the department saw a 60% increase in graduate awards in political science from 2012 to 2013.

Recommendations:

- ◇ Assistant Chair Peter Doas will continue to advise all Political Science majors to ensure that they are moving towards graduation.

Graduate Awards Summary by Academic Year and Program			
Divisions and Programs	2012	2013	Grand Total
Liberal Arts Social Sciences Div.	1,474	1,553	3,027
Political Science (Government)	8	12	20

From: [The STC Interactive Factbook](#)



Dr. Robert Ballinger, chair of the Political Science Dept., encourages his faculty to implement creative approaches to achieve student success.

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I.E. SUCCESS STORIES

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June 2014



The English Department of South Texas College—April 2014

Increasing Course Completion Rates English Department of the LASS Division

About the Division/Department:

The STC [English Department](#) promotes mutual respect, responsibility, enhanced literacy, and critical thinking to empower students to communicate with knowledge, confidence, and compassion.

The department strives to serve students seeking an Associate's degree or students looking to transfer to a four-year institution, empower students to think critically and communicate effectively, take the necessary steps to maximize student success and completion, provide access and opportunity to all, and empower faculty to collaborate with other faculty.

Introduction:

The [2011-2013 IE Plan](#) for the [English Department](#) had Five Goals, Ten Objectives, and Eleven Measures/Findings that address issues that include Fall-to-Fall Retention, Course completion, Graduation targets, academic integrity, alignment

with Dev. Eng., equal assess college-wide, relationships with counterparts in Higher Ed., professional development, and faculty camaraderie.

Featured Objective:

- ◇ **Objective #2:** Increase students' course completion rate from Fall to Fall and from Spring to Spring. To accomplish this, the department will ensure active faculty advising and tutoring, and encourage use of the CLE.

Measure/Target:

- ◇ The Course Completion Rate will increase by 3% from Fall to Fall and from Spring to Spring.

Strategies:

- ◇ English faculty volunteered to tutor at the CLE and to be available to their students for one-on-one conferences/tutoring sessions.
- ◇ Faculty encouraged students to submit their essays to an online tutorial, Smart Thinking, to

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Increasing Course Completion Rates English Department of the LASS Division

provide constructive feedback to the students regarding these essays. (This is a flexible tutoring system that is available to the student through any external computer network.)

- ◇ A faculty member was assigned to the CSI cohort to work as a liaison between the Department and the College initiative. The person attempted to make contact with each member of the cohort each semester.
- ◇ Some of the faculty participated in the 1301 Retention Pilot Program, which included meeting with students in pilot classes to gather information about the students and to create a sense of rapport between instructor and student.

◇



Results:

- ◇ The Fall-to-Fall retention rate moved from 71% in Fall 2010 to 74% in Fall 2012. The goal was met! The Spring-to-Spring retention rate moved from 71% in Spring 2010 to 74% in Spring 2012. The goal was met!

Mr. Joe Haske has served as chair of the English Dept. for over six years and encourages his 100+ faculty (full-time and part-time) to try innovative approaches to teaching English in order to increase student success.



Recommendations:

- ◇ The English department will continue to encourage faculty to volunteer at the CLE, as well as conduct student success workshops through the CLE. Additionally, faculty members will continue to hold one-on-one conferences with students and utilize the 'Smart Thinking' application through Blackboard.