Transitions

Next meeting: 2/27  2:30-4  Meet in 36-119 (same room as 2/6’s mtg)

Homework for next meeting!
To bring to the next meeting, or email ideas to Charlene at frontierac@smccd.edu

“When thinking about a student's transition to college, list and explain the opportunities for a student to ‘fall through the cracks’ or to not successfully begin the school year.”

If you have other data you would like to see, please email Charlene.

Present: 
Laura Burtness  Hillsdale, English teacher + CSM liaison
Don Scatena  Mills High School, Assistant Principal
James Roe  CSM, Student Senator + VP of Transfer Club
James Carranza  CSM, Dean of Language Arts
Carol Ullrich  CSM, Assistant Services Coordinator
Sarah Lawrence  CSM, English teacher
Charlene Frontiera  CSM, Dean, Math and Sciences
Alicia Frangos  CSM, Program Services Coordinator--Transcript Evaluation
Claire Mittler  Hillsdale, retired Counselor
Martin Bednarek  CSM, Counselor
Greg Quigley  Middle College High School, Principal

Special visitors: Ron Andrade  CSM, Learning Center Manager
Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza  CSM, Dean of Academic Support and Learning Technologies

Agenda:
Introduction and Overview: How do 12th graders get to a community college?  A timeline (Greg)
The high school portion of the timeline (Laura)
The CSM portion of the timeline (Carol)
BuddyUp: New Social Network for CSM students (Ron)
Student rating of college preparatory experiences (Greg moderating)
Where are we losing students?--group work
What are we doing to meet needs?  Is it enough?

*Didn’t get to these.

Overview
Ten years ago, students were expected to register, take placement tests and enroll in classes on their own.  Since then, there have been supports put into place in high schools and in community colleges to assist students.

(check the website for the graphic that shows high school/CSM timeline)
High School Portion Laura Burtness gave an overview of a typical high school’s timeline for 12th graders to enroll in a community college.

CSM Carol Ullrich gave an overview/timeline of CSM’s enrollment procedures for 12th graders

PEP: Priority Enrollment Program. Includes testing, orientation + tour. Students leave that day with an appt to see a counselor. The program has become more intrusive and more extensive over time. Students can take alternate placement tests so to not take the CSM placement tests.

There are focused programs that the testing group is reaching out to/coordinating with:
Project Change (outreach and access for alternative high schools and students in juvenile hall), Puente, Emoja, Pathways to College….

There is a counseling tool that will be used soon that will send texts to students to remind them, say, of their placement test testing dates.

BuddyUp: Ron Andrade Check out Buddyup.org
Ron shared Buddyup.org.
Students are more successful if students have study partners or they study in groups. BuddyUp is a matchmaking site for study buddies. Each of the 3 community colleges in the district, plus Oregon State (ecampus), Stanford, Portland State, and Oregon Tech, are piloting the program.

Student View
James shared his enrollment experiences, from the student perspective.

Question that was asked of him: “Of the transition activities listed on the timeline, which was the most valuable for you? Least valuable?”

James came to CSM from 5 years in military, and came from out of state, in a hurry, so his experience is unusual. Plus: he started in the summer. The orientation session was information overload, not compelling, and not particularly useful. On Day 1 of classes, he didn’t understand the campus, left campus right after classes, didn’t feel part of the school, didn’t feel special. He didn’t know he could take placement tests twice and was enrolled in a too-easy math class.

What helped: he stumbled upon someone in the Fall who told him about clubs and made him “want to take advantages of the resources at CSM.” Transfer club and vet center made him feel a part of the school.

He is very grateful for CSM; after hearing about other colleges, he is so glad to have landed here.

His takeaway: If students don’t know where to go --resources, friends, buddies-- when they start failing, they eject from school.

Greg shared some CSM data: some math, English and science data --passing (with C) and withdrawals.

Ideas that came about from the group over the course of the meeting:
● Would a social network for pre-students be a useful thing?
● How do we change students’ attitude towards email?
How can we make a technology leap that will involve/attract students in a way *they* are comfortable with AND make them use email, too, as that is the main communication method between faculty/staff and students?

- Maybe we need to think about student summer socialization activities to help student feel more connected. Get them feeling like a ‘cohort’.
- Maybe do a ‘welcome mat’ activity for summer students, too?
- If a 1.5-2 hour orientation isn’t optimal, what information DO students need?

Next Steps
+ IT folks to be invited--what is new on the horizon to attract students? How can we make it easier to get students to get important academic info on their smartphones?
+ Student feedback from students at next meeting: What would have made your entry to CSM easier/better/more enriching?

Remember your... homework  !!
When thinking about a student’s transition to college, list and explain the opportunities for a student to ‘fall through the cracks’ or to not successfully begin the school year.