

Minutes for the ATD Meeting

March 7, 2013

The Achieving the Dream Core Team met with the coaches, Jan Lyddon and Calvin Woodland, on Wednesday and Thursday, March 6 and 7, in Room 125 of the Logistics Center. In addition to the coaches, those present on March 7 during the session were Joy Knighton, Kristel Baranko (through Skype), Angela Davis, Vicki Tucker, Debra Jones, Don Laye, Beth Davis, Katina Bell, Shirley Armstrong, Elaine Mercer, Bruce Hopkins, Emmett Griswold, Aamir Greene, Mendi Warren, and Regina Watts.

The purpose of the meeting was to determine the next steps in the ATD process. Lyddon said it would be beneficial to set three priorities from the five issues addressed in focus groups. She encouraged the group to keep a running list of tasks and assignments, to learn from other colleges (CASE – copy and steal everything), and to start framing evaluation approaches. The guiding questions should be, “What are we aiming for?” and “What is the outcome we are trying to address?” Woodland suggested we examine past data fields such as student surveys while Lyddon urged the group to continuously look at the Readiness Assessment as a measure of progress.

Next those present brainstormed and discussed Gateway courses, the QEP and AtD, mandatory Learning Support courses, course sequencing, tuition costs to students, use of TV monitors to convey information, waiting times for student services, and policies and procedures. Other topics were the use of an Academic Plan and the role of retention coordinators. Lyddon shared a grid for us to use (captured as a photo by Knighton and/or Mercer) to track the steps for students: admissions, financial aid, testing, registration, and where each is introduced, reinforced, and mastered.

Before the break, the five focus group topics were reduced to two priority areas: Gateway Courses (an examination of Learning Support, online, and traditional courses) and a Right Start for students (the critical initial steps that contribute to overall student success).

Upon return, Lyddon then created a strategy map (photographed by Mercer) that was topped by outcomes of enrollment and retention. Other sections were major processes, identified as Gateway course success and the Right Start; internal perspective, targeting PLA (Prior Learning Assessment), reverse transfer, and dual enrollment for high school students; learning and growth, focusing on teaching strategies, effective technology use, and evaluation; and resources, including NADE (National Association for Developmental Education, www.nade.net).

The final activity was to divide Core Team members into two areas of concentration: one for Gateway Courses/Learning Support - Vicki Tucker, Angela Davis, Joy Knighton, Debra Jones, Don Laye, Tomekia Cooper, Elizabeth Brown, Katina Bell, Emmett Griswold, and Wendy Howell; and the other for the Right Start - Kristel Baranko, Elaine Mercer, Beth Davis, Aamir Greene, Mendi Warren, Calvin Lee, Lisa De Jesus, and Regina Watts.

The meeting concluded with a reminder about the next visit from the AtD coaches on April 9-10.