Student Success Committee Report to PCC on Goal 2
November 20, 2008

Goal 2: Pierce College will increase opportunities for student access, readiness, retention, and success.

At its October 2008 meeting, the Student Success Committee reviewed Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan and discussed the progress made for each objective. What follows is a summary of the committee’s progress on each of the objectives.

The following represent the efforts made on the first objective, student access:

- significant gains in enrollment of younger students due to:
  1- Many high school outreach activities and classes in Los Angeles USD
  2- Expanding new efforts into the Las Virgenes USD
  3- The CAHSEE grant and
  4- The foster youth project
- large increases in financial aid awards
- providing students with more complete and timely information through improved services at the Information Desk and the launching of a new, more user friendly college website

The second objective, on student readiness, has been supported by:

- a summer bridge program for new students attending Pierce directly from high school; this program served over 160 students (mostly Latinos) who enrolled after completing assessment tests and orientation and receiving counseling; a special information session was also held for parents; a key component of the program paired an English course with a College Success course
- many new students also enrolled in the Fall Learning Communities that featured math classes
- new students also participated in Welcome Day activities which included taking campus tours, purchasing textbooks, and meeting with departmental faculty.
- progress also continues on the following projects: Computerized Assessment, Early Alert System, Online Advisement, and Degree Audit System.

The third objective deals with new approaches for supporting basic skills across the curriculum.

- the Math and English departments have engaged in substantive activities to examine and improve their curriculum, provide professional development opportunities for faculty, and develop learning communities with the Counseling and other departments on campus
- a small Supplemental Instruction program for math is being offered.
- a Developmental Education Workgroup continues to meet to review curriculum and examine linkages between English, Special Services, the Learning Center, CAHSEE, and noncredit courses.
- a series of workshops for faculty, including the annual Student Success Spring Convocation, offer exposure to a variety of teaching/learning strategies
a group of faculty are being sent, twice a year, to the Strengthening Student Success Conference, which has a specific focus on basic skills, and to other workshops sponsored by the Basic Skills Initiative. The fourth objective is concerned with student cohorts and learning communities, including co-curricular activities. This objective has been supported by
- the Summer Bridge program in which the student cohort is being tracked and student progress will be monitored; there are plans to increase the size of the Summer Bridge program next year.
- a variety of learning communities (primarily involving paired classes) are ongoing, including a College Success seminar for athletes, but technical problems with registration need to be resolved before these can be expanded
- co-curricular activities have been expanded somewhat due to the opening of the Student Community Center and a very active ASO; expansion will be slowed by lack of staff in Student Activities

Objective five deals with an expansion of the role of the Learning Center. Ongoing discussions, including visits to other colleges, have been taking place in anticipation of future expansion. The major limitation currently is the lack of space (and personnel), which won’t change until the Center for the Sciences is occupied.

Objective six, on professional development opportunities for faculty, was addressed above and continues to be a very important component for progress that needs to be expanded. The LACCD’s creation of a Faculty Teaching and Learning Academy, in which selected faculty from each campus will participate will help to support these efforts.

The new Degree Audit System and the sum total of all of our efforts will hopefully impact students’ attainment of degrees, certificates, and transfer, which is objective seven.

Objective eight seeks to develop students’ personal and civic responsibility. This objective is being supported by our Service Learning Program, which engages almost 1000 students, the CAHSSE program, Coop Ed, and the efforts to expand the curriculum in Personal Development.

Finally, an additional objective was added to Goal 2, dealing with student equity. While the Diversity Committee plays an important role in highlighting and appreciating cultural diversity, there is still a need to examine equity issues in student success and develop approaches to promote equity in student achievement. Therefore, objective 2.9 states: “Develop programs and services that support diverse groups of students in order to promote student equity.”

The recent awarding to the college of a two-year $3.5M Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) grant for Hispanic serving institutions will also contribute to many of these efforts.

This report acknowledges that many other groups on campus, besides the Student Success Committee, are working jointly to support the objectives under Master Plan goal 2.