

The Academic Update

Issue 7 Fall 2016

THE HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION-King

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) approved the PCCUA Interim Report about the use of syllabi, PCCUA Catalog corrections, and our distance learning policy. PCCUA's next reaffirmation cycle is 2025.

WORKING STUDENT SUCCESS NETWORK (WSSN)/ACHIEVING THE DREAM (ATD)-King

There are several strategies included in the WSSN/ATD plan which include the following features:

- 1) An Individual Career Plan (ICP),
- 2) Early selection of a guided career pathway/map/program of study,
- 3) Intrusive and intentional advising,
- Assistance with locating resources such as financial aid, tutoring, student learning labs, benefits access, and will be cross referred if a service is unavailable at PCCUA,
- 5) Student Success classes when enrolling in Basic Writing I and Composition I,
 - a) Includes financial education and asset building assistance
 - b) Includes financial coaching
 - c) Includes career coaching
- 6) Early assessment/Early intervention in the courses for which they have enrolled.

CARL PERKINS -Natacia Davis

The Carl Perkins grant will be enhancing Career and Technical programs at PCCUA in a number of ways. In October, a team from PCCUA will attend the Women's Tech Training Workshop in order to improve recruitment efforts for women in nontraditional programs. In November, another team from PCCUA will attend a workshop designed to improve our use of data for collaborative strategies. The grant will also provide professional development opportunities in the areas of business, applied technology, and update the online career services website and assessment tools. Finally, PCCUA faculty and staff will have free and unlimited access to webinar-based, on demand professional development through the "Go2Knowledge" website provided by Perkins leadership funds.

Academic Leaders:

Dr. Keith Pinchback, Chancellor Dr. Debby King, VC for Instruction Scott Post, VC for Student Services Stan Sullivan, VC for Finance Rhonda St. Columbia, VC for Advancement Carolyn Turner, VC for DeWitt Kim Kirby, VC for Stuttgart Dean Amy Hudson, Allied Health Dean Linda Killion, Business and Information Systems, Applied Technology Robin Bryant, Arts and Sci. Ch., ATD Core Team Jerrie Townsend, PCCUA Librarian Debbie Hardy, Director of Institutional **Effectiveness, Student Success Coordinator** (SENSE/CCSSE) Blake Cannon, Director of Institutional Research (Title III STEM), ATD Data Team Leader Natacia Davis, Director of Carl Perkins Shaun Anderson, Director of STEM, Data Team Susan Carter, Title III Grants Director Aaron Germany, Dir. of the Career and Tech Ctr.

Glenda Sykes, Director of Student Support Services

TITLE III. STEM-Shaun Anderson

Kim Rawls, Director of Career Pathways

Carol Birth, Director of Adult Education

Anthony Cunningham, Director of Gear-Up

Under the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) grant, the chemistry lab on the Helena campus was completely renovated, a project which was long overdue. Summer Academies were held for PCCUA students on both the Helena and Stuttgart campuses. The Academy activities provided academic support to 22 students and promoted awareness of and interest in the many career opportunities that a STEM education can provide. During our November 18 STEM Summit, Dr. Roni Ellington of Morgan State University will facilitate discussions with faculty that can lead to improved teaching and learning across all disciplines. In order to promote faculty development, STEM instructors will attend the national STEMTech conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 6-9. Our focus next year will be computer and general technology, with an emphasis on emerging technologies.

PCCUA Career and Tech Centers-Aaron Germany

The Career and Technical Center is striving to make improvements to several areas to increase overall efficiency and performance for the 2016-2017 academic term. First, the faculty have been unable to access and utilize the in-services that PCCUA offers because of the conflict in our schedule and the local high schools schedule. To remedy this, we have aligned with our local educational co-ops to secure seating in their professional development sessions throughout the academic year. This will allow faculty to attend professional developments at no cost and within the convenience of their respective localities.

Second, we have invested in upgrading our teaching equipment to meet industry standards and better equip our students for success in the workplace. Our Computer Engineering students finished in 3rd place in the state Skills USA competition in April of 2016. They went on to compete in the National Skills USA Competition in Louisville, Kentucky. The equipment that they were trained and taught on at our facility did not meet the expectation for competition at the national level. Thus, we invested in a new Fanuc Robot that mirrors what large manufacturing industries are using to mass produce their products. This will give our students the best opportunity to compete in upcoming competitions and prepare for high skilled employment.

Lastly, we are partnering with the Carl Perkins Coordinator at the Great Rivers Co-op to host their annual regional advisory meeting on the PCCUA campus. This will allow skilled and technical educators from all over the Delta to meet and create solutions to common barriers to student success. The event will be held in the Fall of 2016.

Student Support Services-Glenda Sykes

The Student Support Services (SSS) program will continue to enhance services to assist low-income [and] first-generation college students, and college students with disabilities to successfully complete their postsecondary education. SSS will be providing two new workshops the 2016-2017 academic year that will assist SSS students in achieving academic success. One workshop will focus on mindsets. Based on current research, it is not just our abilities and talent that brings us success, but whether we approach them with the right mindset. SSS will also be providing a test-taking strategies workshop, which will focus specifically on strategies for actually navigating through the test itself on test day. The workshop will cover how to strategically answer and approach different types of test questions. Additionally, SSS will continue providing tutoring, academic advising, financial literacy skillbuilding and counseling, support in completing financial aid applications, and transfer assistance to four-year

educational institutions. SSS will also continue providing individual academic, career, transfer, and personal counseling, and exposure to cultural events.

Career Pathways- Kim Rawls

The Career Pathway goal for FY2017 is to increase the enrollment of TEA and TANF eligible students by 10 percent. CPI will partner with DWS and DHS staff in Phillips, Lee, Arkansas, Monroe, and Desha counties combining site visits and meetings. CPI will continue building partnerships with community agencies and organizations, so that we assist students in reducing barriers they may have that hinder or prevent them from gaining training or education they may need to join the workforce.

CPI staff will be working with PCCUA advisors to enroll students in the short term programs (PCCUA currently offers sixteen CP programs with eleven of those programs consisting of 10-15 credit hours which make it possible for students to receive a credential in one semester. The remaining five CP programs are 16-18 credit hours and two TC programs require two semesters for completion) while also working with students who are pursuing an AA or AAS. Students will also be completing the CRC before leaving the program. CPI will continue to work with local businesses to promote the CPI program and maintain a collaborative relationship and continue to provide employment opportunity information to CPI students.

GEAR UP-Anthony Cunningham

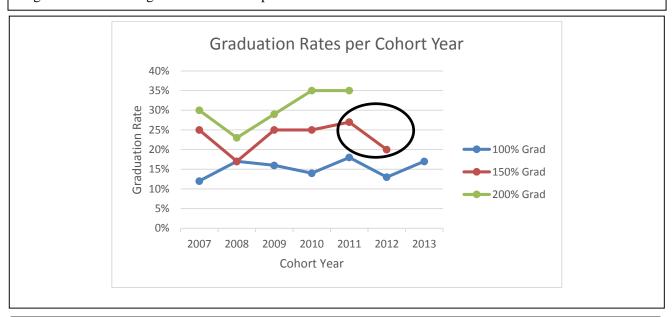
GEAR UP has two full years of programming and will continue to prepare the top of its cohort for their first year college experience. The after school and summer programs for high school students will be housed on the PCCUA campuses this year. GU student activities will include entrance exam test preparation, career readiness, financial aid and literacy workshops, and essay development to name a few. GEAR UP will also continue serving its entire cohort with STEM workshops, professional development for teachers, students and parents, and onsite academic programs at all partner schools.

ADULT EDUCATION-Carol Birth

The Adult Education Department will be making recruitment and graduation of students a priority this year. We will also be working closely with Career Pathways and the Workforce Investment Office Administration to engage both ABE and GAE students with work ready skills. There are several changes planned for the 2016-17 academic year. Visit your campus office to find out more.

Data and Tracking-Blake Cannon

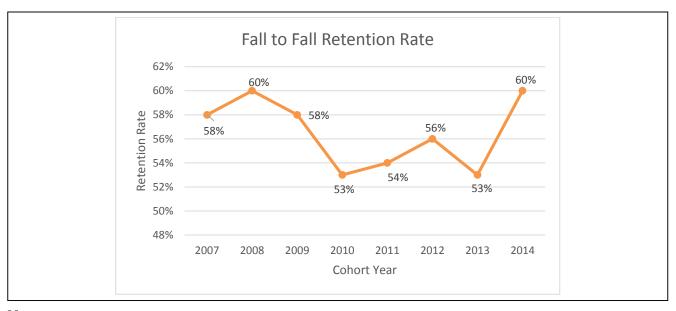
Tracking is becoming a very important need for PCCUA with all the grants and government initiatives we are involved with and trying to determine better ways to recruit students. Even though we do track a lot of data, it's very scattered throughout all three campuses. The goal is to centralize as much of this tracking, so it can better be linked and used for reporting and analysis. We already have some things in place to help us with this. Zogotech's Student Navigator and Student Profile have been installed, tested and trained on, and it's ready to use for the fall. We have been using homemade tracking systems in both the STAR center and STEM lab that link to student information in Datatel. More is on the way. We want to expand out and track more labs. We want to utilize Zogotech to track services we offer on campus. We are going to track area business interests and potential student career interest. In all, we want to create a better system that feeds together to help us get not only our reporting done but also help us to figure out the needs of our students before they have a chance to fall through the cracks. Please help the Data team with any other ideas you might have on tracking needs for the campus.



Take note the big dip from the 2011 cohort to the 2012 cohort. This is a little concerning since it was a drop from 27% to 20%. The good news though is that these lines tend to increase and decrease in the same cohort years. That means we can look at the 100% grad rate to get an idea of where we will go for the 150% grad rate. We see that the 100% grad rate increases significantly (13% to 17%), so therefore our 150% grad rate should trend up over the next year getting us back on track.

Certificate of Proficiency									
Campus	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011			
Dewitt	45	55	140	86	56	60			
Helena	66	86	92	56	45	45			
Stuttgart	42	52	45	37	30	59			
TOTAL	153	193	277	179	131	164			

Degree and Technical Certificates									
Campus	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011			
DeWitt	33	30	27	33	40	37			
Helena	102	137	122	134	108	163			
Stuttgart	40	55	43	67	41	57			
TOTAL	175	222	192	234	189	257			



Note: Fall to Fall retention rates are looking very good as we have hit the highest rate over the last 5 to 6 years.

PLACEMENT AND ADVISING-Scott Post

Placement/Testing – PCCUA will join other Arkansas community colleges in adopting a new placement test, ACCUPLACER, beginning later this year. The COMPASS test will no longer be available for purchase. Students that score below a 19 on the Reading, English, and/or Math portions of the ACT are required to take the ACCUPLACER. The Arkansas Department of Higher Education has set the minimum scores required to enroll in college-level courses. To help determine minimum scores for the different levels of developmental education we offer, PCCUA is conducting a pilot program to give the ACCUPLACER test to students enrolled in developmental courses, Composition I and College Algebra in the Summer I, Summer 2, and Fall terms. Minimum placement scores will be announced once the data has been collected and reviewed. Sonya Allen, Blake Cannon, Vickie Gregory, Debbie Pennington and Scott Post attended the national ACCUPLACER conference this summer for training on administering the test, to learn about other community colleges' policies and procedures related to placement testing, and to gain information on other services ACCUPLACER can provide for the college.

Advising - The Zogotech LLC Student Navigator is used by the College to work with our Student Information System so that the general and specific student information can be collated in a more user friendly manner. Student demographical data, ID photos, transcript information, financial aid information, and student academic performance can be viewed from one location. It should help us identify at-risk students, as well as provide an opportunity for early interventions and help with tracking services the students are receiving through the contact portion of the software. In early March, representatives from Zogotech came to our Helena campus to provide training. Over 30 employees from all three campuses participated in the 4-hour training session. Two more webinars focused on training were held during the summer.



Common Reader

The Common reader for this year is Dr. Carol Dwerk's *Mindset: the Mythology of Success*. This project has been funded through Perkins and Staff Development funds. We invite everyone to participate but do not take a book unless you intend to participate in the discussions. The theme is the power of mindset on achievement and success. Please e-mail dking@pccua.edu if you need a book.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Allied Health-Amy Hudson

ADN -The ADN faculty will be preparing an Accrediting Commission for Nursing Education (ACEN) Self-Study Report. This report will be submitted six weeks in advance of the ADN program's fall 2017 visit to reaffirm continuing accreditation. The Self-Study Report will address six standards: (1) Mission and Governance, (2) Faculty; (3) Students; (4) Curriculum; (5) Resources; and (6) Program Outcomes. Compliance with each criterion in each respective standard is required for continuing accreditation without conditions. A Systematic Plan for Evaluation (SPE) will also accompany this Self-Study Report. Faculty use aggregated and trended assessment data contained in the SPE to make evidence-based decisions regarding program development, maintenance, and revision. In addition to this work, the ADN faculty will continue to administer customized and standardized practice and proctored ATI exams across the curriculum to prepare students for the NCLEX-RN licensure exam. Students failing to meet ATI exam benchmark scores will be required to complete online remediation assignments. Carl Perkins Grant money will be used to purchase a live ATI NCLEX-RN review course for each Level IV ADN student. This course will be offered for the second time on the Helena-West Helena campus. The May 2016 graduates reported this review course was very helpful in preparing them for the NCLEX-RN licensure exam.

PN -The PN faculty will implement a new, contemporary curriculum in the fall of 2016. To improve program completion and readiness for the NCELX-PN licensure exam, The Practical Nursing (PN) faculty retired the HESI Exit Exam policy and will implement a new remediation and testing policy. In each nursing course, all students will take one or more standardized ATI exams to assess knowledge. Early in each semester, students will take a practice standardized exam followed by mandatory, online remediation. Later in the semester, a proctored assessment exam will be administered and mandatory, online remediation will follow. Early assessment will allow students to remediate and build a solid foundation of knowledge that will increase the likelihood of program completion. At the end of the final capstone course, students will take an ATI NCLEX-PN Predictor Exam. All students failing to meet or exceed the benchmark score on this exam will receive a course grade of "I" until they complete an approved NCLEX-PN review course.

MLT-The MLT faculty continue to emphasize the importance of taking the Board of Certification (BOC) Exam after completing the MLT and PLB programs. To

foster success on the BOC exam, the faculty will continue to require students to spend a prescribed amount of time in Media Lab taking practice MLT questions. Faculty will continue to develop exam items that mirror the difficulty level of items included on the BOC. In addition to requiring students to take an online practice BOC exam at the end of the fourth semester capstone course, this year students will be required to take an online practice BOC exam at the beginning of the capstone course. Faculty believe this will give students more time to remediate areas needing development

PLB-While most phlebotomy students complete the Phlebotomy program, most do not actively seek employment after graduation. To improve job placement rates for phlebotomy graduates, the faculty have expanded clinical affiliation agreements to achieve a 1:1 preceptor/student ratio in the clinical setting. The faculty believe when a student is paired with one preceptor on a continuous basis, the graduate is more apt to develop a relationship with his/her preceptor as well as the respective clinical facility. This relationship will then increase the likelihood that the graduate will seek employment with his/her clinical facility.

NA-Students continue to express interest in the nursing assistant program offered each summer on the Helena-West Helena campus. The faculty continue to work with students to ensure that they obtain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to care for patients. The graduates' ability to provide safe, quality care was substantiated when all graduates were offered employment in the same nursing home where they did their clinical rotation.

Applied Technology Division

As part of the University of Arkansas Workforce Alliance (UAWA) and the Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium (ADTEC), PCCUA submitted and received two separate grants as part of ACT 1131 of the Arkansas Workforce Initiative 2015 Planning grant. Both groups (UAWA and ADTEC) also received an Arkansas Workforce Implementation 2016 Grant and anticipate receiving an Arkansas Workforce Continuation 2018 Grant. The foci of this Workforce grant are to 1) increase the welding/construction trades' workforce, and 2) develop a manufacturing workforce and a career pathway for the transportation industry. As a result of receiving the implementation grant, PCCUA will offer a Certificate of Proficiency CDL-Truck Driving on the Stuttgart and Helena campuses. The first CDL training session will be offered in Stuttgart in fall 2016 and later in Helena. In addition, welding is being expanded this fall to include day classes on the Helena campus. Meetings were held in the spring with

Phillips County and Arkansas County industry representatives to inform them of the new initiatives, new programs, and re-designed programs. Jerry Baldridge has been named as the CDL instructor/Program Coordinator, and Tim Campbell will be teaching the Helena welding day classes. Through Carl Perkins monies, Vicki Cobb received extensive training in Adobe Premier and Adobe After Effects; Arthur Gentry attended a conference in Washington, D.C. to learn more about CompTIA Security +.

The Applied Technology Division is in the process of reevaluating the curricula with the help of area industry using DACUM, an acronym for Developing a Curriculum. DACUM is a valuable process where expert workers describe and define their work environment. Through this process, curricula can be revised to focus on industry needs to improve the knowledge, skills, tools, and behaviors of the workforce.

As a result of the Advanced Manufacturing and Renewable Energy Technology Program Review findings, the Advanced Manufacturing and Renewable Energy Technology degrees have been integrated into one degree—General Technology with a Manufacturing Emphasis.

Arts and Sciences-Robin Bryant and Kim Kirby

The Arts and Sciences Division has had some important changes this year. On the Helena campus, Carol Birth became the Director of Adult Education, Vivian Hoskins became a full-time developmental education instructor, and Natacia Davis assumed the Carl Perkins grant duties. In Arkansas County, intramural sports were added last year with Julius Johnson as the coach in DeWitt and Jared Blasengame as the coach in Stuttgart. Students on both campuses are excited to become more involved in these athletic activities in the upcoming year. The chemistry lab on the Helena campus received a much-needed remodel thanks to the STEM grant. With the construction being undertaken throughout the summer, the lab is expected to be ready for use on the first day of class. Both the STEM Center and the STAR Center continue to be valuable resources for students especially with early intervention strategies being required in all classes. The STAR Center continues to handle our pre-Compass review and will also assist in pre-Accuplacer reviews beginning this fall. Sonya Allen, Debbie Pennington, Vickie Gregory and Scott Post attended an Accuplacer workshop this summer to prepare for the transition from Compass to Accuplacer. The Stuttgart Campus is preparing to streamline testing in the Learning Center. Advisors on all three campuses are beginning to take advantage of all that Zogotech offers with student

tracking. Monitoring both high touch and low touch contacts with students is important to our Working Student Success Network interventions. Through our work with Guided Pathways, we have streamlined degree completion efforts.

On the Helena campus, all Arts and Sciences instructors participated in recruitment efforts held on Fridays in the spring. Yvette Robertson went above and beyond in providing one (and sometimes two) programs for the students visiting our campus. We are hopeful our efforts will put more students in our classrooms. On the Stuttgart and DeWitt campuses, Arts and Sciences instructors have also been very involved in multiple recruiting visits by local high schools as well as monthly student activities events for current students. During one recruitment activity, David Hartsell taught a mock biology class for Clarendon High School juniors and pulled out all the stops (including live snakes). This summer Thomas Moss, Sonya Ward and Evelyn Hamilton each taught sessions for the STEM Academy. The Arts and Sciences Division received approval and has added a Criminal Justice CP and AAS degree to begin in the fall of 2016. The program will be offered on all three campuses. Upon completion of the degree at PCCUA, interested students will have the opportunity to transfer to UAFS to and pursue a BS in Criminal Justice.

Business and Information Systems Division

Incorporating new technology and best practices into the classroom as well as increasing retention rates continues to be a priority in the Division. This past year Meghan Fielder and Kayla Holland attended the Teaching Professor Technology Conference, Monica Quattlebaum attended a presentation on using Social Media to Improve Teaching and Learning in the Classroom, and Kayla Holland also attended a session on Developing Teaching Excellence to Improve Student Retention and Success. In addition, Cindy Grove attended the Cyber Security Summit, Secure World Conference, and workshops at the University of Syracuse to obtain extensive training in cyber security and digital forensics. She also earned a certification in Cloud Security which makes her ten certifications in the Information Systems field. Through the 2016-17 Carl Perkins Grant, faculty members plan to attend the Teaching Professor Technology Conference and other training opportunities. As a result of participation in professional development activities, the Division will hopefully see an increase from a division average of 87% to 90% in annual course retention. The Accreditation Council and Programs (ACBSP) Quality Assurance Report was submitted and cited for best practices in assessment. The next ACBSP Quality Assurance Report is due September 15, 2017, and reaffirmation is scheduled for 2019.