STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Department: ROAR Scholars Program (TRIO – Student Support Services)

Core Purpose and Criticality of the Department: The College of Charleston’s ROAR Scholars program (Reach – Overcome – Achieve Results) is starting its third full academic year (fourth year of program) in assisting first generation, low income and disabled students. Free help is offered in the areas of study skills, advising, study groups, exposure to cultural events, personal financial education, career counseling and mentoring. The success motto for the program is, “Do not study harder, learn to study smarter. Maximize your full learning potential.” The program is funded through a five-year, $1.2 million TRiO grant.

“The ROAR Scholars Program is vital for these students,” says Tom Holcomb, director of the ROAR Scholars Program. “We directly interact with the students to give them access and guidance. First-generation college students have had less exposure to many aspects of higher education than their traditional peers. We provide that additional support for them to be successful here at the College of Charleston.”

Program Highlights & Student Contacts

1. IROAR Contract & Follow-up (see personal counseling) (35; 25.40 hrs)
2. Mandatory (Counseling/Advising Appointments)
   a. Academic Coaching/Advising (311; 51.47 hrs)
   b. Personal Counseling (Walk-in appointments & referrals as needed) (194; 47.39 hrs)
   c. Career Counseling (121; 47.18 hrs)
      i. Career Testing & Self Assessments (35; 3.02 hrs)
      ii. Career Center usage: (112; 67.20 hrs)
   d. Transfer Advising (No data currently recorded)
   e. Graduate School Guidance (7; 1.66 hrs)
3. Academic Bootcamp - Operation College Success
4. Peer Mentoring (Success Coaching)
   a. Contract with Mentor/Mentee (30; 14.05 hrs)
   b. Peer Coaching (145; 70.10 hrs)
   c. Center for Student Learning:
      i. Tutoring (Support) (38; 94.30 hrs)
      ii. Peer Tutoring (Group) (196; 98 hrs)
      iii. Supplemental Instruction (137; 68.30 hrs)
      iv. Writing (Support) (5; 5.09 hrs)
5. ROAR Grant Aid (45 students with $52,037.60 aid awarded)
6. Financial Literacy & Counseling (32; 35.28 hrs) & (121; 13.56 hrs)
7. ROAR Workshops: Academic, Career and Professional Development (63; 100.22 hrs)
8. Cultural Enrichment Events & Critical Film Series (88; 238.17 hrs)
9. Google Blog (On-line journal of student success stories, topics and experience)
10. iCloud – On-line cloud community & support resources

Assessments/Metrics: The ROAR Scholars Program conducts an annual APR (Annual Performance Review) for the Department of Education for the previous year’s program services and activities. The ROAR Scholars Program has been working with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness in using the on-line assessment system. We have been utilizing the Qualtrics system for all of our evaluations and workshops. This year the ROAR Scholars Program at our 3rd Annual Advisory Board featured two programs for best practices that we previewed and discussed during our advisory board presentation.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS & CHALLENGES

Recent department accomplishments:

- Annual Performance Review (APR – 2012-2013 Results)

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PR/Award Number: P042A100123
Grantee: College of Charleston
State: SC
Sector: Public 4-Year
First Funded in FY 2010: Yes

- We received a total score of 7 out of 11; we missed receiving a perfect score by 4 because of a 2 percent ratio difference with students in good academic standing.

- Coca-Cola Funding for First Generation ROAR Scholars (http://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/): This program allowed us to award five students a total of $5,000 dollars per year for 4 years at a total amount of $100,000.
Acquired commitment from the College of Charleston’s, Center for International Study Abroad to help our first generation college students study abroad. A Total of $2,000 dollars committed to assisting first generation college students to study abroad.

Spring ’13, Launched ROAR iCloud on-line community: This interactive medium for all information pertaining to the ROAR Scholars Program and more can be accessed by visiting icloud.com. For the login name and password please call the ROAR Scholar Program office.

The ROAR Scholars Program recently moved back to its newly renovated office in Room B-63 of the Lightsey Center (160 Calhoun Street). (see appendix 1)

Academic Bootcamp – Operation College Success: For the 3rd year in a row, we received approval from Department of Education to carryover $5,000 dollars toward funding the initiative for the Fall 2014) (Tentative new dates: August 13-16, 2014)

Estill Outreach Initiative: Our 3rd annual - Title 1 school visit featuring a College Success Presentation & Student College Panel took place in December 2013.

This was the 2nd year in a row that we were asked to present at the Wanda Hendricks Bellamy Leadership Institute. (SafeZone Committee Ally 101 & 201 training)

During Fall ’13 and Spring ’14, we recorded all academic, career and professional development workshops for ROAR Scholars to add to our resource library. (still in-progress)

Department Challenges:

The sequestration made cuts in our budget the last three years in a row. No funding in budget for staff training and travel. (Update we are back to full funding for the new 2014-2015 academic year)

Staff turnover; We just hired a new program counselor in October’14 Shawntell Pace, and reclassified our temporary appointment for office manager to full-time office manager, Kelly Hodo, and we are awaiting administrative approval to finalize her hire.

Requesting additional funding to hire another counselor/advisor for program support. (Potential graduate student).
Writing of a new grant for the 2014-2015 academic year, even though we are funded for a fifth year, competition has been strict, but because of all the initiatives and results of our data we have a solid lead for the next grant competition.

Focusing on Ally Development with other offices and departments. The difference between being an Ally for the LGBTQ community and being a program counselor/coach working with students in the ROAR Scholar Program. Helping to convey the message of support, inclusiveness, equality and active listening that comes with the charge of being SafeZone Ally on campus at the Charleston.
APPENDIX 1 – ROAR SCHOLAR MIGRATION PLAN

Date of completion: Spring 2014
Move date: May 29, 2014