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, and 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) (23; 14:15 hrs)
2. Mandatory (Counseling/Advising Appointments)
   a. Academic Coaching/Advising (544; 118.25 hrs)
   b. Personal Counseling (Walk-in appointments & referrals as needed) (266; 92:20 hrs)
   c. Career Counseling (183; 61:30 hrs)
      i. Career Testing & Self Assessments (3; 0:50 hrs)
      ii. Career Center usage: (70; 47:60 hrs)
   d. Transfer Advising (No data currently recorded)
   e. Graduate School Guidance (22; 11:72 hrs)
3. Academic Bootcamp - Operation College Success (3 participants)
4. Peer Mentoring (Success Coaching)
   a. Contract with Mentor/Mentee (30; 18:45 hrs)
   b. Peer Coaching (749; 601:50 hrs)
   c. Center for Student Learning:
      i. Tutoring (Support) (154; 206:01 hrs)
      ii. Peer Tutoring/Coaching (18; 3:28 hrs)
      iii. Supplemental Instruction (94; 68.30 hrs)
      iv. Writing (Support) (24; 3:83 hrs)
      v. Reading (Support) (2; 1:66 hrs)
      vi. Consultation (63; 87:36 hrs)
      vii. Test Preparation (24; 20:81 hrs)
viii. Study Strategies Workshops (10; 5:87 hrs)
5. ROAR Grant Aid (48 students with $47,263.90 aid awarded)
6. Financial Literacy & Counseling (19; 24:28 hrs) & (180; 23:55 hrs)
7. Applying for Federal Aid/FAFSA (17; 10:61 hrs)
8. Study Skills Support (56; 34:55 hrs)
9. ROAR Workshops: Academic, Career and Professional Development (79; 41:10 hrs)
10. Cultural Enrichment Events & Critical Film Series (219; 185:59 hrs)
11. Cultural Enrichment/Field Trips (12; 110:00 hrs)
12. Google Blog (On-line journal of student success stories, topics and experience)
13. 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 – 2013-2014 Results)**

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<th>PE Criteria</th>
<th>Maximum Points Allowed</th>
<th>Approved Rate</th>
<th>Actual Attained Rate</th>
<th>PE Points Earned</th>
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<td>Persistence</td>
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<td>Number of Participants Served</td>
<td>Percent Served</td>
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<td>Total Points</td>
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- 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.
- 1st Class who has been with the ROAR Scholars Program for four years has graduated. (30 graduates between May and July 2015)
- Three ROAR Scholar alumni received their graduate degrees: Kirstie Sims, Masters of Education (M.Ed. from the Citadel), and Andrea De’Leon – Masters of Science in
Counseling Psychology from USC and Priscilla White with a (MPH from the University of Louisville, KY.)

Finished writing and submitted in a timely manner our new grant proposal for the TRIO – Student Support Services program grant for the 2015-2020 cycle.

Continued 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.

One ROAR Scholar (Alexis Walters) was selected to participate in the Council of Opportunity in Education – Keith Sherim Global Leaders Program to represent our program during a cultural/foreign language program in Salamanca, Spain this summer. (June 1-June 30, 2015)

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)

This was the 3rd year in a row that we were asked to present at the Wanda Hendricks Bellamy Leadership Institute. (SafeZone Committee Ally 101 & 201 training)

**Department Challenges:**

- Academic Bootcamp – Operation College Success: The 3rd annual Academic Bootcamp had low turnout and lack of support. We had students drop out at the last minute or did not show up so we ended up serving only 3 active ROAR Scholars.

- Staff turnover; We had hired a new program counselor Shawntell Pace, but she only stayed with us 6 months. Then our newly appointment office manager left at the end of September to pursue a new career in teaching English to middle school kids.

- 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.

- We had applied to receive the Coca-Cola Foundation Funding for First Generation ROAR Scholars for the fall’14-Spring’15, but were turned down because the Coca-Cola Spokesperson stated they wanted to spread the money around to different institutions.

6/16/2015