Missouri College Advising Corps: Helping Community College Students Transfer Toward Bachelor-Degree Completion

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COTA Conference

The Missouri and the National College Advising Corps

- MU – Missouri College Advising Corps
  - $1M grant over 4 years
  - 1 of 10 inaugural members
  - First advisers placed in fall 2008
- UNC at Chapel Hill - National headquarters:
  - 269 college advisers since inception of program:
    - 112,000 students
    - 153 high schools in 95 districts
    - 22 community colleges

Objectives

- Help Missouri students and their families see college as an attainable goal
- Inform students and their families about college application and financial aid processes
- Increase college enrollment/graduation among high-ability, low-income students
- **Encourage community college students to complete the associate's degree and pursue a baccalaureate degree**

Unique College Access Program

- Near-peer model
- Full-time advisers
- Immersed in the school or college setting
- 100% focus on college planning
- Headquartered at postsecondary institutions
- Intensive pre-service training

MCAC is Unique Among Corps

- 2 urban core settings
- Rural settings
- High schools
- **Community colleges**
- 3 geographic clusters
- Institutional support

2010-11 Partner Institutions

- 14 Partner Schools:
  - 6 in Kansas City
  - 5 in St. Louis
  - 3 in South Central Missouri
- **3 community colleges**
- 11 high schools:
  - 8,524 students
    - 60% Black
    - 10% Hispanic/Latino
    - 2% Asian
    - <1% Indian
    - 27.8% White

A Little About Myself

Rachel Loyd
East Central College – Union, MO

Hometown: Mexico, MO

Degree: B.S. in Business Administration – Management

Hobbies: Spending time with friends and family, riding horses, and outdoors

Why I Became a College Adviser:
Excited by the opportunity to help students work towards their collegiate goals

About My Position

- **East Central College**
- **My Office:**
  Student Development
- **Site Supervisors:**
  - Cookie Hays – Vice President, Student Development
  - Tammy Weinhold – Director, Advising & Counseling

Integrating Into ECC

- All faculty/staff email introducing myself
- Meetings
- Financial Aid
- Speaking to Foundation Seminar classes

Working With Students

- Orientation
- FAFSA
- Rolla Site
- Posters
- Scholarships
- Speaking to Classes
- One-on-one appointments
- Transfer Website
- Campus Tours

One-on-One Appointments

- Varies
  - Quick questions
  - "I need to know about transferring…."
- Information sheet
- Figure out what criteria are important for them
  - Money
  - Location
- Help them through the steps of the transfer process

A Little About Myself

Laura Schneider
College Adviser, MCC– Penn Valley

Hometown: Saint Joseph, MO

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Bachelor of Arts in International Studies, December 2009

Hobbies: Cooking and baking, reading, watching movies, and cheering on the Mizzou Tigers!

Why I Became a College Adviser:
I wanted to give capable students the opportunity to receive a higher education

About My Position

- Where to find me:
  - Student Development Center
- Site Supervisor:
  - Carroll O'Neal, Associate Dean of Students

Integration With MCC – Penn Valley

- Staff and faculty support
- Volunteering for other projects
- Attend regular meetings

Working With Students: Getting Their Attention

Classroom visits

Cafeteria visits

Transfer brochures

Transfer flyers

Website and Facebook

Phi Theta Kappa

Student orientations

TRIO Program

MCAC alumni group

Planned events

Advisement Appointments

- Usually an in-depth conversation
- Look at a variety of four-year institutions
- Finding the "best fit" institution is key
- Consider if and how classes will transfer
- "Meet me halfway" approach

Q & A and Dialogue

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