

PTC Reading Focus Group Says...

(From College Reading class on February 11, 2008 at Pulaski Technical College.)

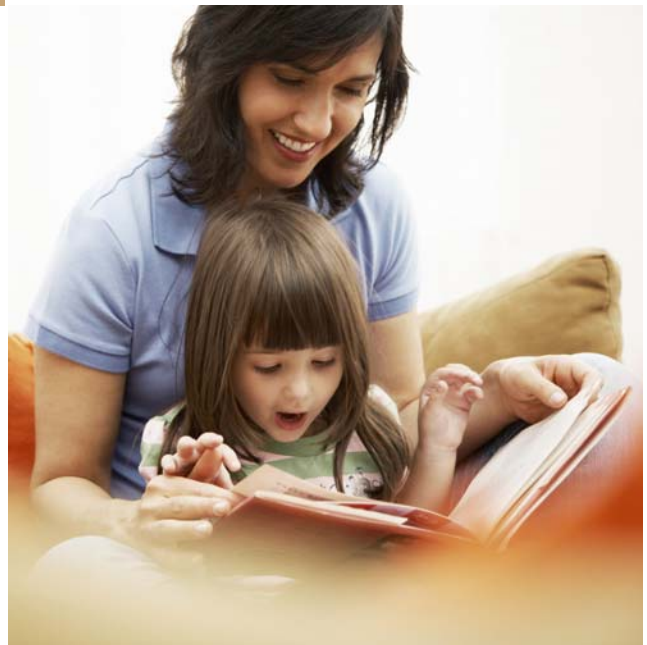


The barriers to student persistence and success are (equally important and affecting 100% of students):

1. Parking.
2. Book prices.
3. Personal Health.
4. Pre-requisites.
5. Class work overload.
6. Family issues.

Pulaski Tech can improve student persistence and success by offering (equal importance):

1. Assigned parking and more parking lots.
2. Buy more books back and lower book prices.
3. All instructors should accept a doctor's note. Sick days should not count as an absence. Have a nurse on campus. Provide student health insurance.
4. Allow enrollment in second class if already passing first class. Allow students to register for two semesters at a time.
5. Instructors should spread the work out over the semester. Instructors should cover a smaller section/chapter at a time. Courses known to have a heavy work load should only be offered M-F, not on Saturday. More instructor evaluations – ones that instructors will pay attention to.
6. Instructors need to be more sympathetic. Day care on campus. Post syllabus and assignments online and keep them up to date. Need more counselors. Need to have a standard student grievance policy.



Pulaski Tech provides effective support to students by providing (equal importance):

1. Multiple parking lots that are close to buildings.
2. A bookstore and financial aid book vouchers.
3. Some instructors will let students make up work and will take them at their word that they were sick. Some absence policies are in place. Disabilities Office is in place.
4. Printed schedule and catalog.
5. Instructor evaluations.
6. Some instructors understand and allow make-up work. Most instructors do allow some absences.

The focus group's opinions of the knowledge students need to have and the action strategies students can implement to improve success are listed in the "Reading Focus Group Results" document available on the PTC Achieving the Dream web site.