

# PTC Faculty Focus Groups Say...

(Focus groups facilitated by Dean Augusta Farver at Pulaski Technical College on December 3, 2007 and December 4, 2007.)

## Common barriers to student persistence and success are (in rank order):

1. Intimidating registration process.
2. Lack of understanding of the financial aid process resulting in poor budgeting.
3. Weak life skills (problem-solving, organizational, sense of responsibility, do not value learning).
4. Reading levels, lack of reading skills.
5. Too few advisors resulting in incorrect placement, over-commitment, and unrealistic expectations.
6. Lack of health care.
7. Isolation.
8. Technology including not knowing how to type, not having access to computer, appropriate software, printer.
9. Lack of knowledge of community resources.



## Pulaski Tech can improve student persistence and success by offering (in rank order):

1. Offer offsite and community registrations and increase the number of advisors.
2. Financial aid, budgeting and life counseling seminars.
3. Provide problem-solving and critical thinking skills courses and workshops. Offer faculty FEP points for taking critical thinking course. Administrative support for punitive consequences. Demonstrate that the College values learning
4. Pre-requisites for reading-intensive courses, instructor emphasis on reading skills.
5. Designated advisors, limit # of hours per semester, require minimum placement scores.
6. Nurse on campus, health care training for faculty.
7. Learning communities.
8. Require technology test on entrance and before enrolling in online courses. Recognize that online teaching is more difficult.
9. More signage, put information in student handbook, put links on web page.

## Pulaski Tech provides effective support to students by providing (in rank order):

1. SOAR and summer orientations.
2. Web site information, College Goal Sunday, SOAR and advising center.
3. Critical thinking course is in the catalog. Single parent mentoring, Title III, probation (grade and financial aid).
4. Reading Task Force, Common Academic Experience.
5. SOAR, TRIO, advising center.
6. Health Issues Initiative.
7. Office of Student Life and Leadership.
8. Online orientation, help desk.
9. Counseling, Student Life and Leadership.

*The knowledge successful students have and the actions they take are listed on the complete Results of the PTC Faculty Focus Groups document posted on the PTC Achieving the Dream web site.*

