

PTC Staff Focus Group Says...

(From staff members at Pulaski Technical College.)



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

1. Mandatory College Seminar in the first semester. Calendars/planners. More advising resources.
2. Mandatory orientation including tour. Mandatory advising. The utilization of student email. Informational CD/DVD. Computer literacy in College Seminar.
3. Mandatory supplemental instruction in developmental courses. Mandatory Computer Concepts. Mandatory reading course. Partnerships with high schools. More tutors/peer tutors. Classroom integrated tutors. Mandatory advising. Prerequisites for T&I and other courses.
4. Support for students campus-wide. Faculty and staff training. Role models. Student publication/success stories.
5. Mentoring program. Social interaction opportunities. Changed faculty/staff demographics. Good role models.
6. Mandatory College Seminar. Mandatory orientation. Social interaction activities.
7. Student pride events. Promotion of success stories. Student achievement awards. Student/faculty social interaction. Family events. Extracurricular activities.
8. Mandatory College Seminar and advising. Career planning, goal-setting integrated in courses.
9. Expand PTC childcare hours (night). Lower cost childcare. Expanded eligibility. Publicize.
10. Counseling center. Mandatory College Seminar in the first semester. Component of orientation.
11. CAT presentations. Make bus schedules available. Create ride-sharing bulletin board.
12. Mandatory orientation. Mandatory College Seminar. Social interaction activities.
13. Enforce academic progress. Mandatory financial aid counseling. More financial aid staff. Mandatory orientation. Campus publication.

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

1. Lack of time management skills.
2. Student lack of information due to lack of staff and resources.
3. Academic under-preparation (reading, writing and technology skills).
4. Cultural pressures from family, friends, peers.
5. Lack of good role models.
6. Lack of social skills.
7. Lack of confidence/self-esteem.
8. Unrealistic/unachievable goals.
9. Lack of childcare.
10. Family issues (death, illness).
11. Lack of reliable transportation.
12. Lack of maturity.
13. Lack of intent (here for the money).

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

1. College Seminar, Career Pathways, TRIO, advising.
2. Information on web site.
3. College Seminar. Career Pathways. TRIO. Curriculum redesign. Willingness to change.
4. Learning Assistance Center. Cultural Diversity Committee. Cultural events.
5. College Seminar.
6. SOAR. Advising center.
7. Flexible class schedule. Online classes.
8. SOAR. College Seminar. Career Pathways.
9. Career Pathways. Single parent support. Childcare centers.
10. Career Pathways. College provides email.
11. Career Pathways. Reduced fare bus passes. Single parent support.
12. College Seminar. Required syllabi. Etiquette dinner. Career Pathways.
13. Enforced student academic progress and financial aid policies.

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