
Leadership Institute Projects: Final Report

Tarsha Scovens & Lyvette Brooks

"Alumni Speakers Series"

Overview of Project

Through bi-monthly activities, the Career Services Center and The Office of Alumni Relations will collaborate to connect employers, alumni, faculty, and students, both at the main campus and at regional centers, to provide students with career planning and employment development strategies. The Speakers Series will pay particular attention to helping students to understand the often "unspoken and unwritten rules" for workplace success.

The benefits of the program are twofold impacting both the student and the alumni participant. The Alumni Speakers Series will enhance the services provided by the new Career Service Center in the area of career advising and it will also be an opportunity for alumni to deepen their ties to the College.

Each bi-monthly event will differ in time, theme and possibly location to allow students and participants of varying schedules and interests to attend.

Outline of Steps Taken to Complete Project

Holding monthly meetings to discuss details of Alumni Speakers Series.

Submitted mini-grant proposal to gain funding for the project.

Outline of Next Steps and Long-Term Goals

Approved for mini-grant.

Arranging dates to hold the Alumni Speakers Series for the '03-'04 school year.

Goal - To hold 6 Alumni Speakers Series events before June 2004 with an attendance of at least 20 students at each event.

Overview of How Project may be "Institutionalized" within the College

A connection between alumni, students, faculty and staff is a necessity within a College environment. Through the Alumni Speakers Series, this connection is being reinforced and developed. Since the College will continuously have alumni, students, faculty, and staff the Alumni Speakers Series will continue because of the benefit to connect all to the College.

Summary of What Was Learned (each individual) By Doing the Project

Tarsha

Through working on the development and creation of the Alumni Speakers Series with Lyvette Brooks, I have learned a lot. I went into the process thinking that this would be another program to help students and it wasn't much different than any other student related project. To my surprise, I began to realize that this is a way in which Alumni can connect and give back to their College, as well as, students learning important career information and connecting to faculty/staff. I also gained a true understanding of how interacting with another office on campus can assist in achieving a stronger influence on the College Community.

Lyvette

The Leadership Institute helped me to gain a greater understanding of the role that Community Colleges play in Higher Education, along with the various external factors that can affect our ability to fulfill our mission. The leadership skills that were taught, while not completely new, did stimulate interesting dialogue among Institute members, which helped me in understanding the culture of the College. The relationships that I developed among faculty and staff while working on the project were invaluable. My greatest challenge as a new employee is in establishing good partnerships with campus offices that have had little contact with the Alumni Relations Office of Institutional Advancement. The Leadership Institute enabled me to foster new relationships that will be critical to my ability to develop a strong alumni base via enhanced alumni services, programs, and events. The Alumni Speakers Series is just one example of a successful collaboration among two departments that will result in a win-win situation for both alumni and students of the College. Lastly, developing a strong alumni base will also help in "friend-raising" and in securing Annual Fund donations for the benefit of students.

Plans for Assessment

Participants will be asked to evaluate the content and effectiveness of each session. Evaluation data will be collected and condensed into summary format. This information will then be distributed to the necessary department heads. Through assessment, the Alumni Speakers Series can improve to allow students, alumni, faculty and staff to benefit even more in regards to lifelong learning.