



Friday, April 18, 2008

An optimist is the human personification of spring. —Susan J. Bissonette

## Where the Action Is

- Academic Senate  
Fri, 5/2 1:00-3:00 Board Rm.
- Academic Standards and Policies  
Fri, 4/25 3:00-5:00 LRC 107
- Acad. of the Redwoods Advisory  
Fri, 4/25 1:00-3:00 LRC107
- Accreditation Steering Comm.  
Wed, 4/23 3:30-5:00 Board Rm.
- Assessment Team  
Fri, 4/25 1:00-3:00 Lakeview
- Board of Trustees  
Tues, 5/6 3:00-5:00 Board Rm.
- Coordinated Planning Council  
Fri, 4/25 9:00-11:30 Lakeview
- Curriculum Committee  
Fri, 4/25 1:00-3:00 Board Rm.
- Facilities Committee  
Fri, 5/2 Time/Location TBA
- Institutional Effectiveness  
Wed, 4/23 12:00-1:00 Board Rm.
- Multicultural and Diversity  
Fri, 5/2 11:30-1:00 LRC 107
- Program Review Committee  
Fri, 4/25 9:00-11:00 Board Rm.
- Technology Advisory Group  
Thurs, 4/24 8:30-9:30 Board Rm.

## Basic Skills Initiative

In June 2008, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) will host a series of two-day regional meetings throughout California to offer **FREE** training to faculty, staff and administrators on **effective basic skills institutional, counseling, and pedagogical practices**. One focus of the meetings will be on methods for incorporating effective counseling and student services practices into basic skills courses and programs. Some of the most successful statewide programs & projects will showcase their activities and assist attendees with developing plans for similar integration on their home campuses. Another focus of the meeting will be discipline-specific classroom pedagogy for basic skills classes. The coordinators for the regional meetings have developed a useful handbook with chapters written by faculty (including counseling faculty) and vice presidents of instruction and student services. **For those attendees traveling from afar, lodging will be provided between the first and second days.**

Outcomes for the regional meetings include the ability for participants to

- ◆ describe WHO basic skills students are;
- ◆ analyze the effects or consequences of inaction;
- ◆ reflect on the attitudes, pedagogies, programs, and techniques they use with basic skills students;
- ◆ apply effective basic skills practices at the program and course levels;
- ◆ generate institutional support by sustaining scaleable programs/activities and efforts;
- ◆ integrate student services with instruction;
- ◆ embed culturally sensitive pedagogical approaches in courses and programs;
- ◆ become familiar with programs and pedagogies that are proven to enhance success and retention of basic skills students;
- ◆ stimulate and engage in innovative thinking around program applications at their own colleges.

The schedule and online registration forms for the June conferences are posted on the BSI web site (<http://www.cccbsi.org/regional-meetings>).

Closer to home, the state has given CR funding this year to conduct a basic skills institutional self-study and to plan short- and long-term actions that will improve CR's efforts in this area. Four large committees were assembled to examine institutional practices and program components, and each committee produced a summary of institutional goals, with every goal linked to an "effective practice" identified in the BSI outline. Currently, the BSI steering committee is condensing these planning documents into a list of specific action plans with funding and will submit this list to the Systems Office within the next two weeks.

## Did you know...

- ◆ **Eight honors students and program coordinator Pat McCutcheon** will be driving down for the First Annual Community College Honors Research Symposium, sponsored by **Stanford University on 4/18**. Students from programs throughout the state will present research projects, and workshops will be featured throughout the day. One of special interest to us will include 2007 CR graduate and Jack Kent Cooke award winner **Carla Baku** participating in a panel on "How to Apply to Highly Selective Colleges." Carla was one of only 22 transfer students accepted by Stanford this year.
- ◆ **April Evans** has created an advising/orientation activity for student athletes entitled "Reg 411." These athletes will meet with student services staff, register for classes, and get an SEP in one day.
- ◆ In August, the ASCCC will offer a **free** teaching institute focused on **pedagogy in developmental writing, reading, ESL &, mathematics classes and on contextualized learning in occupational programs**. Each college is requested to send one full-time and up to five adjunct faculty members from the above disciplines. This Institute will be held in Newport Beach from August 10 - 13, 2008. **Lodging and meals are included.**

## You need to know...

- ◆ The statewide **Basic Skills Initiative**, funded by a grant from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, is developing a web-based resource to showcase successful programs, strategies, and projects that increase success rates of basic skills level students and professional development programs.  
  
While there are a number of projects demonstrating student success across the United States, a repository containing data-driven effective practices accessible to all does not exist. It is anticipated that this database will provide educators with this important resource at one location.  
  
One of the goals is to include at least one program, strategy, and/or project from each California community college that is data-driven and supported, as well as other successful programs from across the United States.
- ◆ For those who are not familiar with the **Basic Skills Initiative: Student Success Continuum** or who just want to know more about it, the ASCCC has a website that offers information about the initiative (look for *Basic Skills as a Foundation for Student Success in California Community Colleges* under the publications tab) and links to literature on effective practices. (<http://www.cccBSI.org>)
- ◆ The first issue of the ASCCC's BSI newsletter is now available. You can download copies of the Newsletter from the website (<http://www.cccbsi.org/Websites/basicskills/Images/BSI-Newsletter.pdf>)
- ◆ **Student Services**, working with **IR**, will be conducting an entering student survey district wide this May through August. The results will be posted to the CR website. Student Services is also honing the Campus Climate survey, with plans to pilot the survey this before the end of this semester.

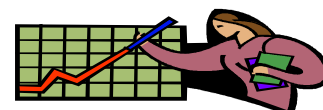


↔ **Michel Thomas, Philosophy, Connie Carlson, Human Resources, Roxanne Metz, Title III, Hillary Reed, Dental, Tami Matsumoto, Math, and Karen Reiss, Biology**, who have graciously volunteered to help with this year's **Redwood Days on May 19 & 22**. ↔

↔ **Sue Alton, Assistant to the President**, who arranged the travel, lodging, and itineraries of all four presidential candidates who visited CR recently. ↔

## Data Watch

Spring 2008 enrollments compared to Spring 2007 enrollments as of 4/16/08.



Eureka	+3.7%
Del Norte	+15.2%
Mendocino	- 3.4%
Virtual Campus	+78.3%
Eureka Downtown	+16.4%
Arcata	+6.1%

Have an item or idea you'd like to see included in the next *Linkages*? Send a note to  
John-Johnston@redwoods.edu

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