Creating Student Success

Amber Morgan, MBA
René Sawyer, MEd

Intro to Success
According to the National Resource Center for First Year Experience and Students in Transition, approximately 84.8% of American colleges and universities offer some type of first-year seminar. At Greenville Tech, College Skills (COL 103), Freshman Seminar (COL 105), and E-Learning Success (COL 111) are leading the way in improving student success by providing students with strategies, skills, and tools for college and beyond. In Fall 2009, COL 103 underwent curriculum revision as part of the Unlock Your Future (Title III) grant. The curriculum was revised to engage students through active learning strategies. Other components of the revision included service learning, learning communities, first year experience, and campus connections to promote student success. Data has shown that COL 103 is making a successful impact on the persistence and retention of developmental students at Greenville Tech.

Curriculum Success
Focus on Community College
The text guides students through self-discovery, college success strategies, career exploration, and much more. Staley supports the faculty by providing active learning strategies and resources for the community college student.

Who Moved My Cheese?
Who Moved My Cheese? is an international bestseller delivering an inspiring message on embracing change and transitions. Students are required to write a reflection paper on how the author’s message relates to their college and life experiences.

Noel Levitz – College Student Inventory
Noel Levitz is a leader in higher education helping institutions meet their goals for student success. The College Student Inventory (CSI) provides students with a College Student Profile report identifying their strengths and weaknesses related to college success.

Myers Briggs Type Inventory (MBTI)
The MBTI is the most well-known personality assessment in the world. Students use their MBTI Type to gain a better understanding of their personality preferences and how these preferences relate to career choices, learning styles, time management, and communication.

V A R K
The VARK is a popular learning styles questionnaire that guides students in understanding their learning style preferences and how to apply their preferences in a variety of learning settings.

Success Teams
Success Teams build community in the classroom. Students are assigned to a group of 3-5 students who become peer motivators and a support system that leads to success.

Active Learning Strategies
Classrooms are arranged in pod seating for groups of 4-6 students. The physical arrangement allows the instructor to become a facilitator utilizing active learning strategies such as small group discussions, jigsaw, think-pair-share, and collaborative learning.

Service Learning
Students participate in campus-wide service learning events in fall and spring semesters. In Fall 2011, students collected 1039 cans of food for United Ministries. In Spring 2012, students collected 181 coats and sweaters for Safe Harbor. Students who work in nonprofit organizations then write a paper and/or give a presentation on their experience.

Future Success
- Fall 2012 – All first time students who enroll in 3 discipline specific developmental courses (Reading 032 or 100, English 032 or 100, and/or MAT 031, 032, or 101) are required to take COL 103.
- Fall 2012 – 2 Learning Communities: Critical Thinking Community linking ENG 100, RDG 100, and COL 103; Business Major Community linking MAT 032 and COL 103.
- Financial Literacy – College Skills will partner with a local financial institution each semester to engage students in financial literacy.
- Service Learning – Each semester COL 103 students will participate in a campus-wide event such as a food drive.
- First Year Experience – COL 103 will continue to be the foundation for the first year experience with future plans to include a peer mentoring program.

Growth Success
Fall Section Offering Growth COL 103, COL 105, & COL 111

College Skills Faculty = SUCCESS!
4 full-time College Skills faculty
27 GTC Adjuncts
Full-time faculty from other departments
GTC Staff from Advising, Center for Teaching and Learning, Counseling, Housing, Veterans Affairs, and College and Career Academy

College Skills Faculty attend training at the beginning of each semester to review curriculum upgrades and model the active learning strategies used in the classroom.