

Iowa City 2007/2008

## Department Action Plan Update

Our action plan relates to improving student success through our Student Success seminars. To date we have been using our success seminars as a way of helping students who are on academic probation develop/improve their academic skills to help them move off probation and toward completion of their academic goal at Kirkwood. Our plan is to expand our success seminars on an across the curriculum basis. We plan to have a success component add to a variety of courses and be part of the course curriculum. In order to do this we are in the process of developing our success seminars to not only include face-to-face formats but to also include online formats that will allow students to participate via the web. In addition to the success seminar format we plan to add a career choice seminar that would help students focus on selecting a career with the goal of improving academic motivation once the student has developed a career goal.

In order to accomplish our goal we set up two major committees one to work on developing our face-to-face seminars online and the other to develop our career focus goal. The committees have been working throughout the spring term to establish seminars we will be able to pilot during the fall term in the online format. The online seminars we hope to pilot in the fall include Information Literacy, Note Taking One: Getting the Most From lecture, and Does this Need a Comma. During our fall department seminar we will select the courses to be used to pilot the seminars. In addition to the three online seminars we will have 13 face-to-face success seminars that will be part of the pilot project in our across the curriculum format. The Career focus seminars will be developed during the fall term. During the fall term we will also develop the syllabus that will allow us to add the success seminars to the curriculum of the courses selected to pilot the across the curriculum approach to delivering our Success Seminars. At the end of the spring term we should be able to do begin a measurement process to determine if there is a benefit from the seminars and to start developing benchmarks.

Another part of our action plan included the partnership we are developing with Mark Twain Elementary school to increase science awareness and success for their students in the science curriculum. This past year our faculty participated in four major projects. Lynn Zeman conducted a Science Club during after school program one a week for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Jeanelle Boyer and her students worked on a Crawling Creature unit for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students with during the early fall term. Dave Hall, Jeanelle Boyer and Beatrice Curio-Penny supported the Health Unit during late January and early February for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. In May the Twain students spent ½ day at Kirkwood on the Physics of Sound and Earth Science units. They conducted experiments in our labs with Andreas Soemadi, Beatrice Curio Penny,

John Dawson, Lynn Zeman, and Andrie Perkhounkov. This project will continue next year with adding a science fair and developing benchmarks to measure development of student in the science curriculum.