

Social Sciences and Career Option Programs

Five-Year Vision

The Department of Social Sciences and Career Option Programs is a nexus of transfer disciplines and programs. The Social Sciences at Kirkwood include: Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Political Science, Economics, Interdisciplinary Studies, and History. The Career Option Programs include: Communication Media/Public Relations, Criminal Justice (both Law Enforcement and Corrections), Disabilities Services Careers, Early Childhood Education, Education Careers, Human Services, Legal Assistant/Paralegal, and Sign Language Interpreter Training. The Department also houses the Kirkwood Community College student newspaper, the Communiqué, Kirkwood Student Productions, the Educational Resource Center, the Paraeducator Certification Program, the Service Learning Program, and the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Certification Program; and Kirkwood Kids, the campus child care center.

Shared Vision

By fostering critical and ethical thinking grounded in a solid knowledge base and practical skills, we challenge and inspire students and ourselves to be life-long learners and active citizens who use an understanding of the Social Sciences and Career Option Program experiences to enrich all of our lives and the communities in which we live.

Major Initiatives

- **Strengthening the Liberal Arts Core, General Education Competencies, and Preparation for Careers or Transfer through developing new courses and programs to meet the needs of the 21st Century, building upon the results of the Five Year Department Review from 2005-2006.**

Accomplishments:

- Piloted the new minimum department writing requirements for students and chose to improve students' ability to use evidence in writing and to cite sources effectively as the new SMART goal for 2008
- Piloted the new imbedded technology assignments policy requirement for students
- New courses designed and/or piloted: Topics in Education such as "Differentiated Instruction" and "Civility", added in "Bullying" for fall , 2008; Learning Communities: Developmental Psychology with Loss, Grieving and Growth; US History since 1877 with American National Government; Sociology of the Environment; Correctional Law; Health and Psychosocial Rehabilitation was (the introductory course in the series) added additional sections last year leading to new courses: Substance Abuse and Treatment, Counseling Theories and Techniques, Field Experience I (in Drug and Alcohol Treatment,) Field Experience II (in Drug and Alcohol Treatment), all of which should pilot this year. Understanding Cultures: Sub-Saharan Africa, Non-Linear Editing; News

- Producing; Communiqué Orientation; Student Ambassadors; Introduction to US Foreign Policy; How College Works
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- Redesigned courses: Early Childhood Education –eight courses newly re-named and aligned with the rest of the Iowa community colleges using both National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards, and the Interstate New Teacher INTASC standards; Constitutional Criminal Procedures;
- Constitution Day organized by our Department
- **Expanding global and cultural understanding and appreciation of diversity**

Accomplishments:

- New diversity course: Understanding Cultures: Sub-Saharan Africa
- Boxhill Institute, Australian faculty and students exchange to Kirkwood in Early childhood Education and Disabilities Services Careers and in Human Services Careers as part of Global Education Network (GEN)
- Online blog – students in LA county Cerritos Community College with Sociology and Composition II enhanced and expanded
- Endowed chair project by Gale Smetana on media suppression and survivors of the Russian Gulag: Perm
- Holocaust speaker
- **Expanding experiential learning for students, faculty and staff through service learning, faculty and staff professional development, intensive and continuous technology training, and partnering with agencies, schools and businesses**

Accomplishments:

- Caucus training for students and staff
- IT training for faculty
- CE6 training for Distance Education and course management
- Team teaching: Linked courses (shared student cohort)
- Learning Communities proposals
- Constitution Day
- Sign Choir concerts
- New transfer agreement with Mt. Mercy College in Early Childhood Education that is designed through a unique transfer model resulting in a “partnered” endorsement;
- Programming in Sign Language: created and interpreted for deaf users a new CD for practicum students and interpreters who work with practicum students in cooperation with Grant Wood and Cedar Rapids Community Schools’ advisory group
- Early Childhood Stakeholders: five giant steps--one of the Fifteen –in-Five initiatives for Cedar Rapids

- Real to Reel and Mental Health Grow Iowa Values Joint Project : partnered with the 6th Judicial Court System and Human Services Careers Program to create a video on drug and alcohol abusers and treatment for instructional use and in the court system;
- Training for new instructors of high school transition course : How College Works
- Training on: Outlook email system; Office 2007; new Eaglecard; new P-Card; new on-line reporting; Colleague Datatel updating sessions, including payroll; a new voicemail system; a new printer/copier/fax system and several revisions in processes, like electronic travel forms
- Dean professional development: the Chair Academy International conference; National Association of Community Colleges of Teacher Education Preparation (NACCTEP); National Coalition for Campus Children's Centers; sustainability workshop; strategic planning conference to ITE, Singapore (GEN)
- **Developing and connecting faculty and staff, full and part-time, throughout all centers and Iowa City, and across delivery systems institutionalizing what we began during the Department's Five Year Review.**

Accomplishments:

- Updating of generic syllabi, expanding use by adjuncts, and placing on J Drive
- Coordinators meeting with adjunct faculty
- KCELT Programs (taken and taught), KQIP, KFI, CAT
- Teaching squares and circles
- Update and dissemination of Department Handbook
- Teaching over the Kirkwood Television System and at county sites regularly
- Career Academy in Education Careers and Human Services at Resource Center and in Lisbon
- Constitution Day with Iowa City campus
- Tidbits publication
- **Incorporating and assessing computer literacy, benchmarks for learning outcomes and workplace skills, and student success initiatives throughout all courses and programs**

Accomplishments:

- Use of portable computer lab: 40 laptops on carts available for check out in Benton Hall classrooms as measured by the number of faculty who use them in class
- Imbedded technology assignments policy requirement for students: adding and refining internet assignments
- More instructors utilizing blogs and online resources in classroom

- Website courses for students
- Newspaper courses – past news stories: www.kirkwoodstudentmedia.com
- Adoption of SMART goal for piloting in fall, 2008-spring 2009: to improve students' ability to use evidence in writing and to cite sources
- Faculty and staff asking for and using data in decision-making in increasing numbers
- Submitted American Bar Association Interim Report, revised
- Submitted American Bar Association Site Visit update Report for Reapproval of Paralegal Program; site visit date scheduled for September, 2008

- **Expanding the Kirkwood Kids programming and services to children and to students in Instructional programs and maintaining NAEYC national accreditation, and beginning work on Quality Rating Systems in accordance with State of Iowa initiatives. Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale (ITERS), Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS).**

Accomplishments:

- Policies in Parent and Staff Handbooks revised
- Financial policies revised and implemented
- Strategic planning to meet new accreditation requirements for staffing and programming for 2010: converted part time positions to full time positions for teaching staff;
- Implemented new process for transitioning children to new classrooms
- Staff training on ITERS, ECERS, Quality Rating Systems
- Variety Club grant proposal funded and implemented on prewriting skill-building
- Renovated and updated several classroom areas to meet new licensing and accreditation requirements

- **Expanding the facilities, equipment and program offerings in Communications/Media/PR Program in the re-design of Linn Hall and in Sign Language Interpreter Training Program in Benton Hall**

Accomplishments:

- Facilities upgrades on hold during planning phase for Linn Hall renovation until fall 2008 and building of new academic building east of Cedar/Benton Hall, complex scheduled for opening in spring 2009;
- Programming in Sign Language: created and interpreted for deaf users a new CD for practicum students and interpreters who work with practicum students in cooperation with Grant Wood and Cedar Rapids Community Schools' advisory group;
- Pilot the Real to Reel project in the new communities besides Vinton, a Grow Iowa Values Fund Project

Capacity

- Technology and Technology Support
- Facilities Expansion
- Personnel Support: additional full-time Faculty and Support Staff
- Additional Faculty Support
- Professional Development Resources –Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching
- Student Support Initiatives

Ownership /Support

The Department of Social Sciences and Career Option Programs fully supports these initiatives and pledges to act upon them wholeheartedly as supported by the college and directed by our Dean.

Dashboard Indicators
