A Discussion with Betsy Barefoot: Summary

On Wednesday, March 14 a group of Valencia faculty and staff members gathered with Betsy Barefoot. The meeting was an informal place to share and exchange ideas about Valencia’s focus on students. Betsy invited the attendees to share their ideas about where Valencia had been and where it was going in terms of serving its student population; specifically, she asked faculty and staff to discuss areas they felt made Valencia a student-centered learning institution.

Topics that emerged from the conversation included the Direct Connect/Transfer function of Valencia and how we could better serve students looking to move to a four-year institution after Valencia; the first-year learning experience and the importance of working to ensure students felt connected to Valencia during their first year; our role in helping students find their purpose; at-risk students and their needs; internationalizing the curriculum; and Valencia’s focus on working with the community to help our students prepare for the workplace. Much of the discussion centered on fielding suggestions from the group about best practices to serve the unique needs of community college students.