

VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Student Affairs Department Unit Plan

Active Cycle (academic year): **2014-2015**

Area (Department/Program): **Bridges to Success (College Transitions)**

Person Responsible: **Dr. Tanisha D. Carter**

	Plan
1. Goal -principal purpose of plan (include how this relates to serving students or increasing student success or supporting Life Map)	<p>In previous years the Unit Planning Goal has been to increase the number of African American males served by the Bridges to Success program. We have consistently improved upon this goal every year; however there is still work to be done in recruiting, and retaining these students. We have increased school visits, and partnered with School Counselor, and College/Career Coordinators in the high schools to offer application days, and application review sessions to assist this population with submission of their Summer Program Application. Additionally, we partnered with Community based organization to ensure that the students they serve consider Bridges to Success as an option for continuing their education beyond high school. This year we will focus on strengthening our internal and external contacts so that we are doing all that we can to target this group. This will include identifying students very early and maintaining contact with them throughout the entire process.</p> <p>Parents are important to the overall success of students participating in the Bridges to Success program our goal this year to create a system that allows them to be more engaged and informed so they can in turn help us help their child stay on track for retention and graduation.</p>
2. Objectives -what will be accomplished and measured	Bridges to Success will continue to implement a multi-prong plan to increase the number of African American Males in addition to reaching out to parents to aid in retention and graduation of the students served by Bridges to Success. 58 African American males were accepted for the 2014 Summer Program.
3. Measures and Findings – How specifically measures will be conducted. How will we know the objective has been achieved?	We will use the SAS Reports/Data Warehouse through the IR department. We will also consider creating survey to be completed by community partners, school counselor, and college and career coordinators to determine what direction we can take to achieve this goal.
4. Action Plan – what is the implementation plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify and use specific application and selection criteria that will define the process and meet financial aid requirements for this population. • Add appropriate staffing to manage the advising and program requirements Improve communication and correspondence with community partners by clearly defining the program requirements and selection criteria. • Collaborating with College Transitions, School Counselors, and College/Career Coordinators to target traditional high schools as well as alternative school, and community organizations with qualified applicants.

<p>5. Achievement Summary/Analysis-What was learned from the assessment results? What changes will you make in your initiative for the year to come?</p>	<p>What we learned from last year is that although we are making the effort to reach this population there are areas that can be improved upon to aid them in the transition from High School to College. Recruiting them is not enough we must create/develop initiatives that will for retention/graduation. We partnered with the College & Career Coaches, as well as College Transitions to reach a larger group of students as well as community organizations (partners) who assisted us in hosting BTS presentations, and applications days that resulted in clearly defined program requirements and selection criteria, which ultimately resulted in greater quality of the applications submitted. There is still room for growth in this area this year as we need to focus more on the Admission pieces (Residency, Tax Transcripts) that can potentially derail an at-risk student from attending college.</p> <p>We were also able to hire new staff that have bought into the BTS system which has resulted in greater accountability and tracking of students to ensure they are staying on track for retention, and graduation. New staff members have created innovative initiatives and programs that are keeping students engaged while working on their overall personal and professional development (Female Empowerment Symposium, Molding Men for Tomorrow, Group Advising, Co-Curricular Programming/Skill Shops)</p> <p>2015-16 will present new challenges for BTS; however we finally have staff in place who are excited about the possibilities that the challenge will create and look forward to making the department goals a reality for our students.</p>
<p>6. General Education Learning Outcome</p>	
<p>7. Strategic Plan Outcome</p>	<p>Learning Assured, Objective 2.5 Close achievement Gaps</p>

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- Add appropriate staffing to manage the advising and program requirements Improve communication and correspondence with community partners by clearly defining the program requirements and selection criteria.
- Collaborating with College Transitions, School Counselors, and College/Career Coordinators to target traditional high schools as well as alternative school, and community organizations with qualified applicants.