A Message from the Assistant Director

The fall brings several positive changes to the Title V Sequoias Project. Our staff has a new home in the Sycamore building which is a perfect fit for our student’s needs. Many of you will recognize our new location when described as the “old DRC.” Our faculty and staff offices are located in room 109, while our FYE computer lab occupies room 107.

The First-Year Experience Program currently supports approximately 450 students via learning communities or cohorts supported with augmented instruction. In addition to the tremendous efforts of the faculty who are instructing these cohorts, these students also have access to an FYE counselor, peer mentor, computer lab, textbook/laptop checkouts, workshops, and university visits.

New to the SEQUOIAS Project are faculty, staff, and management proposals which were accepted in July and will be a work in progress for the 2012-2013 school year. A window of opportunity was opened to all COS employees who had a specific project in mind that aligned with one of the three grant components: student success and connections, faculty development, and management and evaluation. Over a dozen of the submitted proposals were accepted, ranging from campus-wide technology improvements, to art students visiting an art museum. In March, the Sequoias Project will host an event where those working on such proposals will have the opportunity to share and/or disseminate information regarding their proposals.

Other exciting happenings under the Sequoias Project include our involvement with the upcoming CalADE Conference. Title V will collaborate with ELI to fund approximately 30 faculty and staff to attend this conference. It is a huge honor for the college to host such a conference, and a fantastic way during fiscally dismal times to bring us together to promote and discuss student’s needs and success.

Lastly, I wanted to mention that the Sequoias Project, through the direct supervision of Ross Rueger, currently supports 19 instructional leaders. The majority of these instructional leaders are serving under a supplemental instruction model, while the others under augmented instruction. Preliminary data supports these models, and further data will be analyzed as the semester comes to a close.

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Welcome Our New Director

I am so happy to be joining the Title V staff as the Interim Director for this semester and I want to thank them all for making me feel welcome in my new position. I have been involved with the Title V grant over the past several years by working with the Augmented Instruction in my Pre-Algebra class, by being funded to attend the National Association for Developmental Education (NADE) Conference, and as a part of the Reading Across the Disciplines Project. I know that because of the goals and mission of Title V, some really wonderful work is being done across campus and I am so pleased to be more intimately involved in the whole grant.

One of the goals I am so excited to support is faculty and staff development. As an executive board member of the California Association for Developmental Education (CalADE), it gives me great pleasure to announce that COS is hosting the 3rd Annual CalADE Conference on Friday, October 26th. Educators from community colleges and CSUs will be attending, giving workshops, and networking with each other. Along with hosting the conference, I am hoping that COS faculty and staff will help welcome our guests by joining us for activities both on Thursday and Friday evenings and during the day on Saturday. If you are interested in helping with any activities, please contact me!

What's new in the FYE lab

The FYE Lab has undergone several changes since last semester. Not only have we moved from Kern to the Sycamore building, we're also excited to have four new Peer Mentors!

With nearly 20 applicants to choose from, four COS students were selected to be the new FYE Peer Mentors. Peer Mentors are current students who serve as role models and resources to our FYE Learning Communities. FYE seeks to provide Peer Mentors with valuable work experience and the opportunity for personal growth.

Summer Events

| Students attended the Student Success Workshop with nationally recognized author Don Asher on June 6th | New FYE students and guests participated in the FYE Orientation on June 20th. Students were given an overview of the program, as well as a tour of the campus and a short workshop on using Bannerweb. |
Upcoming Events

Campus Visit
Every semester, FYE takes a group of students to visit a local college or university. This fall is no different; 43 FYE students will take a tour of the University of California, Santa Barbara campus on October 12th.

FYE Workshops
FYE will begin hosting monthly workshops on campus. Put on by FYE staff, the workshops will cover the following topics:
- Salsa Dancing
- Time Management
- Student ePortfolios
- Resume Basics
- Graduating with an AA/AS
- Taking Time to De-Stress
- Transfer Process
- Living on a Budget

CalADE Conference
COS will host the 3rd annual CalADE Conference on October 26th from 8am–4pm. The theme for this year’s conference is "Effectively Serving the Silent Majority in Higher Education."

Title V Learning Specialist Activities Update
As part of the Title V team, I’m charged with performing learning assessments, counseling students regarding learning strengths and weaknesses, planning appropriate accommodations, and supervision/direction of instruction & tutoring:

The LS 308: Instructional Support class, held in the Lodgepole Building’s Learning Skills Lab, is a vehicle through which some of these tasks are accomplished. Every student who takes the class undergoes a screening assessment, which helps us to identify if DRC services may facilitate academic success. Follow-up activities may include further testing and/or referral. LS 308 consists of applied study skills instruction, and workshops offered throughout the term.

The Instructional Support Services brochure was created in an effort to inform students and the campus community about the academic supports available here. Contact information and locations are also included in the brochure, which is available at the Welcome and Counseling Centers.

The Instructional Support Services training site was launched in Blackboard last year with the kind assistance of Deborah Nolan. The site includes training information for student workers who act as tutors and instructional aides, and includes: effective tutoring techniques, study strategies to share with students, and information regarding the various populations served by COS.

Kathleen Conway, Learning Specialist
Learning Skills Lab/Disability Resource Center