



Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges

Creative Staff Innovation Awards
Anthology
2015

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Auto Wrap

A picture is worth a thousand words! Danel Walker, Graphic Designer for Eastern Oklahoma State College, designed an original auto wrap to promote the new radio station 93.1, which is a part of Eastern's Mass Communications department and degree. This vehicle is not only an attention grabber and promotion for this student centered radio station, but as the radio station travels to broadcast from local high school football games, it becomes a way to engage conversation with potential future students. The very professional and "high end" look of the graphic is representational of Danel's commitment to excellence at Eastern Oklahoma State College.



Danel Walker, Graphic Designer
Eastern Oklahoma State College

Helping Hands

Every nine seconds a woman is beaten in the United States. Seminole State College's Classified Staff Association wanted to help these women in some small way. We spent the summer collecting travel size toiletries and hotel samples from travelers. We soon found out that their need was much greater than what we collected. So, after school started we spoke to classes and hung fliers. Students and faculty started bringing much needed items for the shelter and some just gave money. Another organization heard about our project and donated story books for the small children that the woman bring with them. This is one of many projects the CSA does, I will have to say that is was a very eye opening experience.

Christmas is always a wonderful time of year and at SSC the CSA try to make it even better for several young children. CSA contacts the local DHS and the Salvation Army for the names of children that might not have Christmas. We then send out a campus wide e-mail with the list of boys/girls (first name only) size, and their Christmas wishes. Then we just step back and watch the magic happen. Every division, every athletic team, individuals and organizations request one or more children. Every year we have to ask for more children. It is always such a great feeling to see how the whole campus becomes one in spirit to help someone.

Ann Gavin, Classified Staff Association
Seminole State College

P3 Mentoring Program

Western Oklahoma State College (Western), located in rural southwest Oklahoma, is faced with the difficult challenge of educating and retaining a diverse population which is ordinarily not prepared for college. According to the most recent data, community colleges serve a pivotal role in this mission, as 45% of Americans enroll at two-year institutions. However, only 29.5% of full-time degree/certificate seeking students complete a program within three years, with 46% of full-time and part-time community college students attaining degrees, certificates, or transferring to a 4-year institution within six years. Western's current retention and completion rates are as follows:

2013-2014 Full-Time Retention	48%
2013-2014 Part-Time Retention	30%
Graduation Rate (2012 Cohort)	22%

Western began the 2015-2016 academic year with "Student Success" as the focus. Topics related to retention and completion permeated the entire in-service program which was attended by all faculty and staff. Several new initiatives are in full-swing on campus but the most exciting is the Pioneer Partner Program (P3) which pairs faculty and staff with first-time entering students. This is a voluntary program in which campus personnel are able to select up to five students to mentor throughout the semester. The belief is that frequent contact with campus personnel will help students be more comfortable in their new surroundings and give them a contact on campus should problems arise.

A great deal of planning and preparation went into the implementation of P3 which involved a variety of offices on campus. First, a mentor packet was developed which provided guidelines for staff members (signing up, claiming students, contact requirements, needs assessment, mentoring tips, etc.). Next, a student packet was developed which informed students about the program (mentor information, campus resources, tips for success, etc.). An online database was created which allowed faculty and staff to "claim" students via the P3 database. This database comes equipped with a function that allows mentors to document interaction with mentees.

P3 was presented to the campus in a variety of settings during the first few weeks of the fall 2015 semester in an effort to maximize exposure and create a buzz on campus about this new endeavor. To date, 2443 students have been claimed. This is 61% of all first-time entering students at Western. Faculty and staff have been seen across campus interacting with their mentees in a variety of ways. Examples include playing pool in the game room, discussing semester goals over a soda in the snack bar, and going through the needs assessment in the library lounge. Although data will not be tabulated until the end of the semester, it is apparent that the program is already making a difference.

Justin Smith, Institutional Effectiveness
Western Oklahoma State College

2015 CSI Peer Review Panel

Dana Culton,
OCCC

Barbara Cox,
Redlands Community College

Alexa Mashlan,
OCCC

Chair:
Joanne Huff,
Western Oklahoma State College