Drafting a Plan for Student Success

We’ve all heard the projections: to compete effectively in the global economy of 2020, 60 percent of jobs in this country will require some level of college education, whether in the form of a certificate, an associate’s (two-year) degree, or bachelor’s (four-year) degree. Today only 42 percent of our workforce holds such credentials which puts us far behind countries including Korea with 63 percent of its workforce educated beyond high school and Canada and Japan at 56 percent each.

As a nation, we need to make changes and make them soon or we can expect to be left in the dust of an industrialized, information-savvy global society that will gallop ahead of us to progress and prosperity. Bottom line: we need to create more college graduates.

At Dalton State, it means that we need to enroll students who are future-directed and will choose a pathway and stay on it until they earn the certificate or diploma they need to get the job they want and that we need for them to have.

As an access institution, our historical mission has been to provide post-secondary educational opportunity to the students of our region. Now we need to be more. Our message used to be “come to college;” now it needs to be expanded to “come to college and finish.” We need each student to begin with the end in mind, and the end is going to look a lot like a degree, suitable for framing, with his or her name on it.

Twenty-nine like-minded states have joined a national coalition to address the issue of educational attainment. The coalition is called Complete College America, and I’m proud to say that we are in the trenches to help Complete College Georgia meet its goal of 60 percent college credential attainment over the next eight years.

The goals of Complete College Georgia are aggressive and have required us to re-think how we do just about everything at Dalton State. We are now in the process of developing a detailed plan of

“Our forefathers and mothers may have come here in different ships, but we are all in the same boat now.” U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga.

“Building the Beloved Community” was the topic of Congressman John Lewis's April 30th presentation on events that occurred during the Civil Rights movement and the impact of that movement on the nation.

As a “Freedom Rider” practicing non-violence, the Congressman was beaten and jailed numerous times, but he also came to know Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. personally and was present on stage during the “I Have A Dream” speech delivered to 200,000 civil rights supporters from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963.

Pictured welcoming Rep. Lewis to campus are Dr. Robin Cleeland, Associate Professor of Social Work, who organized the event, and Mr. Matthew Hipps, Assistant Professor of Political Science.
CAMPUS WATCH

Submit professional news for the June eQuill (after the fact) to lmassey by Wednesday, May 23. Items received after that date will be held for the August issue.

Drafting a Plan...
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how we are going to change our systems to help more students get from orientation to graduation as expeditiously as possible.

How do we do that? It begins with a culture change. Everyone on our campus–students, faculty, staff, administrators–has a personal stake in the success of each individual student. It’s not just the professors and advisors; it’s all of us. We must ask ourselves what we need to do to ensure each one of our students leaves here with a diploma in hand.

We must do more with our P-12 partners to improve college readiness. Programs such as Near Peer, Summer Bridge, and Summer Academy do much to prepare students for the rigors of college work–how do we take strategies we’ve learned from those successful programs and scale them up to include more students? We’d like to provide more outreach to Hispanic students and students interested in STEM (science/technology/engineering/math) fields and health occupations, areas expected to grow in job demand over the coming years.

We need to do more to capture and analyze data to see where our stumbling blocks are. What programs have the highest drop-out rates? Which classes? What kinds of students are most likely to become derailed in their educational efforts? Where are our greatest successes and how can we replicate those on a larger scale?

We must shorten the time to degree completion which means we have to work closer with our technical...
May Calendar

Calendar of Events and Information for Graduation Day
Friday, May 11, 2012
For additional information, call Enrollment Services at 4436.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Graduation practice for students at the Northwest Georgia Trade &amp; Convention Center, Lower Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 am</td>
<td>Buffet lunch in Pope Student Center for graduates, faculty, and staff. Please drop by to mix and mingle with our grads and to enjoy lunch provided by Student Life!</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 am</td>
<td>RN Pinning rehearsal at the Trade Center, Lower Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>RN Pinning pictures</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>RN Pinning ceremony at the Trade Center, Lower Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Graduation line up</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Graduation</td>
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Graduation Regalia
Graduation regalia ordered from the College bookstore must be picked by Wednesday, May 9. If you have questions, call the bookstore at 706-272-4548.

Parking
In addition to the parking available at the Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center, a shuttle will run from the College parking lot located behind Pope Student Center. Please plan to use the shuttle. Trade Center lots are usually full by 6:00 pm.

Project Graduation
Phi Theta Kappa is sponsoring Project Graduation, a project to battle hunger. Members ask that you bring a nonperishable food item to graduation practice. All items collected will be distributed to the Salvation Army.

Quick Response (QR) codes have been added to the QEP posters on display in classrooms across campus. Now, anyone with a smart phone and a QR app may access our QEP website through their phone.

If you notice a classroom without a poster, please send the building name and room number to Imassey, and it will be replaced. Thank you!

Schedule adjustments for May:
Final exams: May 1 through May 7
Fitness Center hours:
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>6:30 am to 12:30 pm</td>
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<td>May 7</td>
<td>6:30 am to 8 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8-10</td>
<td>7 am to 7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>7 am to 12:30 pm</td>
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Fitness Center hours for summer:
Mon.–Thurs. 7 am to 7 pm
Fri.–Sun.  Closed

Summer semester classes begin Monday, May 21.

Summer publications schedule:
The weekly Bulletin Board will be published only as-needed during May, June, and July.

Summer eQuill schedule:
June issue:
Send reports of professional travel, presentations, and publications for “Campus Watch” to Imassey by May 23.*

July issue:
Hiatus—no publication

August issue:
Send reports of professional travel, presentations, and publications for “Campus Watch” to Imassey by July 23.*

*Submissions not received by published deadlines will be held for the next issue.
April rewind...

On Wednesday, April 4, college presidents from southeast Tennessee and north Georgia met at Dalton State for breakfast and discussion of mutual issues. Pictured from left, front row: President Gordon Bietz, Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN; President Paul Conn, Lee University, Cleveland, TN; and President Schwenn; and back row: President Harley G. Knowles, Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, TN; President Niel B. Nielson, Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA; and Dr. Carl Hite, President, Cleveland State Community College, Cleveland, TN.

Ms. Lydia Knight, Director of Roberts Library, welcomed guests to “Home Grown,” the College’s third annual literary celebration of Northwest Georgia, on April 9. The four-day event featured presentations about the Civil War, with Dr. John Fowler, Director of the Bandy Heritage Center and co-editor of Breaking the Heartland: Georgia’s Civil War, presenting the first session.

Drafting a Plan...

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college partners to facilitate transfer between systems and to award credit for documented education and training earned on the job or in the military. On campus, we need to ensure students stay on track and do not take extra classes and amass extra credits not needed for their degrees.

We must be flexible and innovative in the ways we deliver instruction. This includes offering more hybrid and online classes and also redesigning courses to be more engaging to the learners that we serve.

Remedial classes must be redesigned. They need to be offered in creative new ways to engage remedial learners and get them earning credit in actual college courses more quickly and effectively. This may mean integrating remedial instruction into regular courses, offering them in split session, or other structural changes.

The state of Georgia projects it will need almost a quarter million more college graduates for the workforce of 2020 than it has today. We simply must shepherd more of our students successfully from their first class on our campus to the Trade Center stage where they march across in cap and gown to accept a degree.

On April 19 AD Derek Waugh, center, and students Ryan Hollingsworth, left, Hilary Hicks, and Matt Borgen unveiled branding concepts for the College’s new athletics programs at a press conference for local media.

Pictured April 13 with President Schwenn at the reception following their induction into Beta Gamma Sigma are, left, Dr. D.K. Kim, Assistant Professor of Management, and Dr. Robert Culp, right, Assistant Professor of Economics. Beta Gamma Sigma is the international honor society that serves business programs accredited by AACSB International. Induction is the highest recognition a business student or business faculty member anywhere in the world can receive in a business program accredited by AACSB. Pictured with Dr. Schwenn is the Beta Gamma Sigma mascot, “Professor Elwell,” who is named for the organization’s first president.
April rewind continued...

Friday, April 20, was a busy day as the College celebrated student achievement with academic awards, and the Dalton State Foundation awarded scholarships for the upcoming academic year.

Pictured right, Sen. Charlie Bethel, R-Georgia 54, attended the College’s 37th Annual Honors Convocation to present the 2012 Georgia General Assembly Academic Recognition award to Christopher M. Whaley, a student in the College’s School of Business.

On April 25 the Humanities Department presented a Campus Community Concert featuring students and faculty, including: Dr. Robert Clay, Associate Professor of Mathematics, on piano (left); Dr. Lorena Sins, Associate Professor of English, on violin; Dr. Ellie Jenkins, Assistant Professor of Music, on horn; and Dr. Cathy Hunsicker, Assistant Professor of Reading, as “Master of Ceremonies.”

Civil rights icon Congressman John Lewis speaks to a receptive audience in Goodroe Auditorium on April 30.

Left: Congressman Lewis poses for a picture with Dr. Henry Codjoe, Director of Institutional Research.

Right: Congressman Lewis greets students as he arrives

Student Scholarship Showcase

Thank you to all faculty and staff who were involved in developing plans and/or mentoring students for the College’s first-ever, campus-wide Student Scholarship Showcase.

Over 80 students participated in the event held on campus between April 23 and May 1.

Faculty mentors included:
• Ms. Joan Chapman (Education)
• Mr. Richard Hennier, Mr. Max Pierce, Ms. Christy Walker, Ms. Lisa Hunt, Ms. Rebecca Lowery (Technology)
• Dr. Marilyn Helms (Business)
• Dr. David DesRochers, Dr. John Lugthart, Dr. April Anne Kay, Dr. Richard Collison (Sciences)
• Dr. Jason Schmurr (Mathematics)
• Dr. Tammy Byron (Social Sciences)
• Dr. Jane Wimmer (Social Work)

With special thanks to members of the Student Scholarship Initiative committee, including: Co-chairs:
• Ms. Barbara Tucker (Humanities) and Dr. Lynne Cabe (Social Work) and
• Dr. Tammy Byron (Social Sciences)
• Ms. Orenda Gregory (Education)
• Dr. Charles Johnson (Technology)
• Dr. Gina Kertulis-Tartar (Sciences)
• Dr. Jason Schmurr, Dr. Lirong Yu (Mathematics)
• Ms. Melissa Whitesell (Library)

And last but not least, thank you to Dr. Sandra Stone, Vice President for Academic Affairs, for her support of the project and providing refreshments for participants.