Achieving the Dream (ATD) Coaches Meeting

Monday, November 17, 2014

1. Meeting #1: Harbor Advantage Update

The first meeting with the coaches was in regard to the Harbor Advantage program. In attendance were Shazia Khan, Daniel Ruiz, Dr. Stephanie Atkinson-Alston, and Doctors Terri Manning and John Nixon. Daniel Ruiz began by presenting information on the Harbor Advantage including enrollment and education plan updates. Ruiz explained there are 250 students participating in Harbor Advantage and all have been given student education plans. He also expressed further needs of the Harbor Advantage such as priority registration, staffing support, and easier access to a lab classroom.

The ATD coaches gave several items of feedback. They both agreed to the need for more support staff and recommended having an assigned budget to Harbor Advantage. Dr. Manning suggested writing a proposed budget and asking for an outreach assistant to the high schools. The coaches suggested to schedule sections effectively in terms of a variety of times, more priority or block scheduling, and scaling up to reach all 3,000 incoming students.

2. Meeting #2: Student Success Evidence Committee

The second meeting was in regard to the evidence and analysis update from the Student Success Evidence Committee. Rhea Estoya, Elena Reigadas, Shazia Khan, Dr. Atkinson-Alston, and Doctors Manning and Nixon were in attendance. Rhea Estoya reported that the Evidence Committee has mainly been collecting data on demographics of students and math. The coaches inquired about math and Rhea explained that things are beginning to happen within the department specifically a new testing tool: MDTP. The coaches asked what students are currently testing with, and Rhea informed them that Compass is still in place until MDTP is validated. Rhea further explained to the group that math and English instructors have been asked to rate students if they believe students belong at the class level they are currently in.

The ATD coaches provided several items of feedback. First, they emphasized the need of the evaluation design. They felt Harbor College needs more leadership to spearhead data collection and analysis, and that we need to look at what has been done to create more. Second, a weakness the coaches expressed was that the Umbrella Committee needs to be evaluating each moving part of Harbor Advantage. Third, they suggested the need for more qualitative data. They explained we need more formative assessment, training for instructors within the classroom, tracking of students, and more focus groups. Other suggestions they provided were to have each member of the Evidence Committee assigned to each Umbrella intervention, come up with a routine set of data that the college runs each for better
comparison and from that data, decide what the Committee wants to look at and build on. Finally they suggested combining all forms of data collectors.

3. Meeting #3: Culturally Responsive Training (CRT)

The CRT team presented its data and descriptions of the CRT offered at Harbor College. All of the CRT team was present including Jean Grooms, Lori Minor, Brian Henderson, Paula Brown, and Leslie Trujillo. The ATD coaches gave a lot of positive feedback and suggestions to further gain knowledge, present, and measure. In terms of knowledge gaining, the coaches suggested to have Baltimore come out and train further. Also, they referred the CRT team to research Estella Bensimon at USC and the diversity score card and Resiliency and Grit by Anglea Duckworth. As for presenting, the coaches encouraged the CRT team to present at the DREAM conference in February 2015; look into the CCBC, work with the other two leader colleges in the LACCD to develop a national conference with the ATD network; and to present at the Black, Brown, and College Bound Conference. Finally, in terms of assessment, the coaches suggested to collect data by asking faculty what they are going to do including observation, report writing, classroom visits, lesson planning, focus groups, interviews, and surveys.

4. Meeting #4: Math (see Chris Mandia’s notes)