

Provost Post

News from Academic and Student Affairs for Persons of Quality

August 2016

"I think it's very important to have a feedback loop ... constantly think about how you could be doing things better and questioning yourself." - Elon Musk

Welcome to Fall Semester 2016!

During my first year as Provost, I've received some valuable feedback from faculty and staff, and I thank those of you who have shared your comments with me. Perhaps the most prevalent theme for improvement has been communication. People have asked me questions like: What does the Provost do? Beyond traditional communication venues like GRCC Today and shared governance structures like AGC, how do we know what administrators in Academic and Student Affairs are working on? These are great questions, and I'm glad to know that faculty and staff are interested! I am committed to improving communication from the administration in Academic and Student Affairs in the coming year. There are several ways in which I intend to do that. First, I am establishing this monthly newsletter. Second, at the request of Dr. Frank Conner, the newly elected President of the Faculty Association, the deans and I will be creating a communication plan for our areas to share with all of you this fall. Third, I will be updating my website to include more up-to-date information on the work of key committees and groups, and finally, I will continue to record periodic provost podcasts which feature interviews with various faculty, staff, students, and other guests. Later in the year, I'll be asking you for your feedback on the effectiveness of these efforts.

Having worked at GRCC for eleven years now, I know from experience that, as we approach the beginning of a new academic year, all of us are committing once again to the work of improving student access, success, and completion – to having the best year ever. It's just what we do here. It's in our DNA. We can't do otherwise.

Best regards,
Laurie

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Fall Opening Day

Please join your colleagues on **Thursday, August 25th** for Opening Day at the Ford Fieldhouse:

7:30 am: Breakfast

8:00 am: Address by President Ender

8:30 am: Dr. Terrell Strayhorn, guest speaker - *"The Building Blocks of Belonging and Success in Higher Education"*

9:15 am: Awards

10:00 am: School Meetings (various locations)

11:30 am-1:30 pm: GRCC Foundation Free Picnic Lunch at the Dr. Juan R. Olivarez Student Plaza

Adjunct On-Boarding from 2:00-5:00pm at the Ford Fieldhouse. During the on-boarding event, adjuncts will have an opportunity to:

- Turn in new hire forms
- Ask questions regarding benefits
- Obtain a Raider card
- Learn about library services
- Receive technical support from IT
- Learn about professional development opportunities
- Obtain a parking assignment, hang tags, office and classroom keys

This event is open to new and returning adjuncts, but not mandatory.

Adjunct Dinner/Awards/Meetings at the Ford Fieldhouse:

5:00 pm: Adjunct Dinner

6:00 pm: Awards Ceremony

6:15-6:45: Dr. Terrell Strayhorn, guest speaker - *"Real Talk About Belonging and Difference in College"*

6:45-7:30 pm: Departmental Meetings (various locations)

Center for Teaching Excellence, Distance Learning Host Open Houses

The Center for Teaching Excellence and the Distance Learning & Instructional Support Department will be hosting an open house August 25th, 26th and 29th. All faculty members are encouraged to come in with any questions, comments, or concerns about their classes, online teaching, instructional technologies, and anything else relating to teaching. The open house will take place during the following hours:



Located on the third floor of the main building, rooms 316 for DLIT and room 308 for the CTE.

Welcome New ASA Staff

The following folks have been hired over the summer.

Lina Blair, Director, Student Life

Marisol Blanco, Student Success Lead Coach, College Success Center

Rolando Bocanegra, Student Success Coach, College Success Center

Valerie Butterfield, Registrar, Student Records

Christopher Johnston, Associate Dean, Arts & Sciences

Denise Jones, Student Success Coach, College Success Center

Sheila Jones, Dean, Instructional Support

Kelly Kozloski, Program Coordinator, College Success Center

Sarah Laycock, Coord Scholarship, Financial Aid

Evan Macklin, Orientation Coordinator, Admissions and Enrollment Center

Brandon McBride, Student Success Coach, College Success Center

Pamela Miller, Associate Dean, Workforce Development

Rebecca Rahn, Functional Analyst, Financial Aid

Lauren Shirey, Support Professional, Education

Diane Smith, Administrative Assistant, Executive Offices

Stephanie Smith, Storeroom Manager, Culinary Education

Lisa Swinehart, Support Professional, Financial Aid

Sarah VanDeWege, Assistant to Preschool Instr, Preschool

Congratulations! Faculty & Staff Promoted

Received Tenure:

Scott Garrard - Visual Arts

Jodi Gee - Exercise Science

Nora Neil - English

Steve Henkelman - Job Training

Jennifer Knauf - Business

Brett Atchison - Automotive

Promoted to Associate Professor:

Patrick Kamau - Counseling

Curt Baragar - Mathematics

Lisa Gloege - Social Sciences

Susan Williams - Social Sciences

Charlotte Pease - Mechanical and Architectural Design

Promoted to Full Professor:

Dawn Zuidgeest-Craft - Nursing

Eve Sidney - Dental

Many thanks to GRCC's newly elected and re-elected academic department heads and program directors!

School of Workforce Development:

Applied Tech: Jonathan Larson

Automotive: Chad Lodenstein

Business: Felix Pereiro

Computer Info Systems: Drew Rozema

Criminal Justice: Nikki Banks

Dental: Eve Sidney

Manufacturing: John Doneth

Mechanical & Arch. Design: Mike Merchant

Nursing: Shelly Richter

Occupational Therapy: Karen Walker

Radiologic Technology: Deb Nordman

School of Arts and Sciences:

Biology: Tim Hoving

English: Susan Mowers

Exercise Science: Laura Kennett

Language & Thought: Mary Lucas

Math: Dana Sammons

Physical Sciences: Tom Neils

Psychology: Frank Conner

Social Sciences: Mike Light

Visual Arts: Nick Antonakis

Department heads and program directors have one of the most important leadership positions at the College. We appreciate your service!

New Faculty This Fall

Name

Werner Absenger

Kelli Fedder

Brian Hadley

Nathan Haney

Svetoslav (Slava) Pavlov

Tim Periard

Renaë Potts

Vicky Powers

Samantha Sprague (Wolfe)

Jared Staub

John Stewart

Jeff Winkle

Lauren Woolsey

Department

Culinary - Program Director

Dental

Math

Welding

Computer Information Systems

Biology

Nursing

TRiO/Student Support Services

Psychology

Music - Band Director

Culinary - Brew Master

Humanities

Physics/Astronomy

ALEKS Implementation

Mandatory Mathematics Placement – an Overview

Mandatory Mathematics Placement was approved at the Academic Governing Council in Fall 2014.

Why we need Mandatory Mathematics Placement

Students enrolling in math courses often lack the background necessary to succeed in the courses they have chosen. Mandatory placement will help place students into the courses for which they are best prepared. This saves students time, money and frustration!

When Mandatory Mathematics Placement Begins

Students enrolling for math classes which start in Winter 2017 will be subject to mandatory placement.

How Students will be Placed

Students will be placed into math courses based on Valid Course Prerequisites or Valid ALEKS Placement Scores.

Valid Course Prerequisites

Courses taken at GRCC: A prerequisite course grade of C or better must have been earned within 12 months of the course start date.

Courses taken at other colleges: A grade of C or better is required, but due to system issues we will continue to accept transfer courses as valid prerequisites regardless of when they were taken. This process will be reviewed in one year.

Courses taken in high school: With the exception of earned AP Calculus credit, no high school math courses are valid prerequisites.

Information About ALEKS

What is ALEKS PPL: ALEKS PPL (Placement, Preparation and Learning) is not a test. It is an assessment designed to determine what students know. It gives students an idea of their strengths and weaknesses in math, followed by an opportunity to work in a customized ALEKS Prep and Learning Module to improve their skills. By working in the ALEKS PPL environment, students will save time and money by placing into the math class best suited to their abilities.

Practice with ALEKS before beginning an assessment: ALEKS provides a brief tutorial before a student's assessment begins.

Access to Preparation and Learning Module: To allow students time to practice and learn more mathematics, they have 6 consecutive months access to their Preparation and Learning Module, starting from when they begin to use it, to be completed within 12 months of their first assessment, at no additional cost.

Students who place into the course they wanted: They may continue to use their Preparation and Learning Module to improve their chances for success, and earn a better grade in their course.

Students who don't place into the course they wanted: They should use their Preparation and Learning Module to review, learn, and retake the assessment to improve their placement result.

Retakes: Students' course fees allow 4 retakes within 12 months of their first assessment. Since there is no benefit to retaking an assessment immediately, students must wait 48 hours between retakes. Also, to make each attempt worthwhile and improve students' skills, they must spend at least five hours working in their ALEKS Prep and Learning Module between retakes.

Cost of ALEKS PPL: This is included in students' fees, so there is no up-front cost to students. However, if students attempt more than 4 retakes, or if more than 12 months have elapsed since their first assessment, then they must re-subscribe to ALEKS if they still want to take a math course and they do not have a valid prerequisite or placement score. The cost to re-subscribe is \$30.

When ALEKS Placement begins: ALEKS PPL assessment will begin 7/1/16 for students enrolling in W '17 math classes. Students enrolling in F '16 math classes will continue to take Accuplacer; their scores will expire in F '17.

Who must take ALEKS PPL: Students not meeting admissions requirements (GPA and ACT/SAT cut scores) will take ALEKS prior to admission. All other students without a valid course prerequisite will take ALEKS prior to enrollment in a math course. Exceptions: personal interest, guest, apprenticeship and police academy students are not required to take ALEKS.

How long a placement score is valid: It is valid for 8 months, starting from the date of the student's most recent assessment. For a student's most recent placement score to remain valid, they must enroll before their 8 month period expires.

Where students take ALEKS PPL: Students not meeting admissions requirements (GPA and ACT/SAT cut scores) will take ALEKS in a proctored setting. All other students may take ALEKS online.

If you have questions or feedback, please contact Lori Cook (Ext. 3099; lcook@grcc.edu) or John Dersch (Ext. 4086; jdersch@grcc.edu).

Guided Pathways Initiative



A national movement to provide students more clear paths to success, the Guided Pathways Initiative (GPI) is underway at GRCC. It addresses an issue that is common to many colleges, including community colleges, and this is low student completion rates. The team working on this initiative hopes to assist students in finding their academic area of interest early and to provide support so that they have success in their program of study and ultimately graduate with a certificate or associate's degree. The project relates to the College's Strategic Plan by supporting the end of Workforce Pathways, which states that *GRCC will prepare students for the workforce in our community and the world* and the end of Transfer Pathways which states that *GRCC prepares students to transfer to the college or university of their choice*. Increased student completion rates support both initiatives as students need to complete certificates and degrees to successfully enter the skilled workforce and studies have shown that transfer students who complete associate's degrees are more

likely to complete 4-year programs.¹ The work that GRCC has been doing in recent years is consistent with the GPI model, and this initiative should further align our efforts and hopefully increase the effectiveness of several projects.

The steering committee membership comes from many areas of the college and includes faculty, staff, and administrators from Workforce Development, Arts and Sciences, Student Success and Retention, Instructional Support, Student Affairs, and Information Technology. Each team member brings a unique perspective and value to the team's discussions. As a group, benchmarking data was collected and tabulated and the Purpose and Goals for the GPI was based on input from steering committee members. Team members have met with academic department leaders and the Communications office to collect feedback and to begin the process of disseminating information about GPI. Further, the Instructional Support office has provided key insights into the selection of the individual Pathways, the alignment of the academic programs, and the development of first semester coursework for each Pathway. The team members from Student Success and Retention have been an important voice in ensuring that the student experience under the GPI is both workable and for the benefit of students. The work of the steering committee will continue throughout the academic year and the projected launch date for the GPI is fall 2017.

If you have any questions or feedback or would like to join our efforts, please contact Tina Hoxie (thoxie@grcc.edu) or Jennifer Batten (jbatten@grcc.edu).

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