

## **Student Success Programs at Kodiak College, UAA**

**From the point of contact to graduation, we support students with a personal touch.**

### **Rural Student Recruitment Day**

Host students from rural Kodiak on campus to learn about college readiness, create portfolios, have a tour of the campus, and hear from a panel of current students.

### **Kodiak High School Career and College Fair**

Student Services staff present to Kodiak high school students about local educational opportunities and stress why staying in Kodiak or Alaska for college makes good financial sense.

### **ACCUPLACER Early College Placement Testing**

Working cooperatively with Kodiak Island School District schools, we administer Accuplacer Placement tests to high school juniors and seniors to assess academic readiness in math and English. Many juniors who take the test register for a math class their senior year in effort to be college ready.

### **Fast-Track Math**

A free, intensive math review for students who want to retake the math placement test, Fast Track is offered in the evenings the week prior to the fall and spring semesters. Students report being more confident after having completed the course and many have placed into a higher level course, enabling them to save time and money toward completion of their program.

### **New Student Orientation**

On-campus orientation held the week before each semester begins. Targets new students (high school and first-time) to provide community, connections, and familiarity with the services, faculty, staff, and students. Required for first-time students receiving local scholarship funds. This has proven a promising practice in promoting first-year student success. Online orientation is currently being developed.

### **JumpStart Tuition Discount Program**

Targets first-time freshmen and high school students taking Kodiak College courses and provides \$75 per credit hour tuition to ease students' financial burdens and increase enrollment of targeted populations. Students must take the Accuplacer placement test, attend New Student Orientation and receive financial aid and academic advising to qualify for funding. First-time freshmen who do not succeed their first semester will be subject to mandatory advising before they are able to register again.

### **Targeted Advising**

Research shows there is value in using both non-cognitive and cognitive assessments for advising and placement; therefore, we use the LASSI (Learning and Study Strategies Inventory) in addition to the Accuplacer to better recommend courses and appropriate interventions. Based on LASSI, Accuplacer, and individual student interviews, we may recommend one or more of the following interventions: freshman success course, tutoring support, or Student Coaching.

### **Student Coaching**

Student Coaching is a program designed to give Kodiak College students an opportunity to become more engaged with the Kodiak College campus community. Students volunteer to be paired with committed faculty and staff who form mentoring relationships to help increase the likelihood of student success. The program is designed to help students successfully navigate the Kodiak College and UAA systems;

promote progress toward and student ownership of academic goals; and encourage the evaluation and improvement of affective skills like time management, motivation and using resources. Pairs agree to communicate once a week. If a face-to-face meeting is not possible, some pairs communicate by phone, email or text. Students who have participated in the Student Coaching program would recommend it to other students. Here are some of the things they had to say about the program:

- “If I didn't have my coach I wouldn't have tried as hard. I would have given up if I didn't have someone to talk to and help me.”
- “It really helped me stay on track. My coach gave me a daily planner and strongly recommended using it. It helped me stay more organized.”
- “Helpful to have accountability - knowing that I would have to talk to someone every week about how school was going.”
- “Yes, it was helpful, mostly learning about dates and deadlines and getting connected with campus resources.”

### **Smart Start Program**

Smart Start is an intensive 10-week college-preparatory, developmental learning community encompassing a 12-credit block of classes (College Success; Writing Strategies; Reading Strategies; Pre-algebra). Team-taught in an inclusive environment, it is designed to support students who did not follow a traditional college-prep curricular pathway and/or who have been out of the academic mainstream for some time. Our data show that students who successfully complete Smart Start and take the next level college course do as well as or better than students placing into the same courses.

### **Student Success Course**

GUID A150 Creating Success in College is a 3-credit course designed to help students make successful transitions to college from high school, home or the workplace. Adjustment and transition issues (academic, career, intrapersonal and interpersonal) are addressed in a hybrid (face-to-face and eLearning) delivery method. This course is part of the Smart Start Program.

### **English Companion Course**

The Companion Course allows qualifying PRPE A108 Introduction to College Writing students an opportunity to simultaneously take PRPE A108 and ENGL A111 Introduction to Composition in one semester, rather than taking the two courses sequentially over two semesters. Students who take the Companion Course typically only pay for 3 credits, so those successfully passing can save money *and* accelerate through the English sequence.

### **The Learning Center (TLC)**

TLC is a full-service learning resource center staffed by trained, part-time tutors and open 47 hours each week. The tutoring program is supported by Developmental Studies, English, Math, and Science faculty. Tutoring is offered in multiple ways, including one-on-one tutoring, technology-enhanced tutoring, and group tutoring. Supplemental Instruction will also be offered beginning in summer 2014. Studies show that participation in tutoring is positively associated with higher GPAs and increased pass rates.

### **Homestretch Scholarship**

Identifies, recruits and supports students in good standing who left Kodiak College after doing the majority of work needed to complete a certificate or degree. Support includes academic advising, financial assistance, and Student Coaching. By encouraging students to return and get back on track toward their academic goals, Homestretch contributes to a “culture of completion” at Kodiak College.