

A Community for Completion

*Promising Practices to Increase Completion in
The Florida College System*

Volume 1 · Issue 1 · July 2011

Did you know?

According to Community College Week's annual Top 10 report, The Florida College System produced the second highest number of associate degrees in the nation and served nearly 900,000 students in 2009-2010.

Inside this Issue

WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR	1
DAYTONA STATE AUTOMATICALLY GRADUATES STUDENTS	2
DAYTONA STATE AUTOMATICALLY GRADUATES STUDENTS CONT.	3
IN THE NEWS	3
RESOURCE CORNER	3
CONTACT	4
CALL FOR PROMISING PRACTICES	4

Welcome from the Executive Vice Chancellor

Welcome to the first issue of *A Community for Completion!*

Through participation in Complete College America's Alliance of States, Florida aims to double the number of certificates and degrees produced each year from 70,738 in 2007-2008 to 146,283 in 2019-2020. This goal will be accomplished by removing barriers to completion and promoting best practices that foster student success.

That's where you come in!

Each month we aim to highlight a promising practice designed to promote college completion at one of the 28 Florida College System institutions. By sharing completion ideas through this newsletter, we will celebrate promising practices already working at our colleges and give other colleges ideas for new projects or initiatives. This newslet-

ter will also serve to support the new statewide advising network.

In this issue, we describe how Daytona State College has adopted an initiative that automatically graduates students, thereby increasing completion rates. We also provide other completion-related news and information. On the

last page, you will find our "call for promising practices," where we encourage you to submit a practice for a future issue.

Academic advising plays an influential and essential role in a student's success in college. Through this newsletter, we hope to raise awareness of the important work you do for your college and The Florida College System.

Sincerely,



Dr. Judith Bilsky
Executive Vice Chancellor



Daytona State Automatically Graduates Students

Looking for an innovative way to increase degree completion at your college? Look no further than Daytona State College.



*Academic Advising Session
at Daytona State College*

Daytona State is one of the few colleges in Florida that uses a replicable approach to increase graduation rates by automatically graduating students who meet all Associate in Arts (AA) degree requirements.

Dr. Richard Pastor, Associate Vice President for Enrollment and Student Development, explains that Daytona State recognized that students were earning enough credits to graduate but did not seek the degree. As a result, the college adopted the automatic graduation process as a way to increase graduation rates.

Dr. Pastor points out that it is no easy feat: “The process of automatically graduating students is very labor intensive. It requires cooperation and communication within and between many offices to accomplish the task at hand.”

So what does this process look like at Daytona State?

First, the institutional research office runs a report to identify students who have earned a large number of credits and for whom it appears will complete the AA degree during the current semester. Developed by Susan Antillon, Dean of Institutional Research, this report zeros in on students who have met all degree requirements.

After the institutional research office has completed the initial report, the list of students is given to academic advisors. Daytona State has over 60 advising tracks for the AA. The academic advisors conduct degree audits and use their institutional expertise to narrow down specific degree requirements.

Finally, upon review from the academic advisors, the list of students is sent to the graduation office. The graduation office does a final check to ensure all requirements are met before automatically graduating the students. At the end of the semester, if those who were complete did not apply to graduate, the college processes their graduation and sends the student a letter with instructions on how to obtain their diploma.

Adopted in spring 2011, Daytona State has already experienced success with the process and the college has implemented automatic graduation as a result of these efforts.

But the process is not without its challenges. Notably, some students

“The process of automatically graduating students is very labor intensive. It requires cooperation and communication within and between many offices to accomplish the task at hand.”

*- Dr. Richard
Pastor*

Daytona State Automatically Graduates Students Cont.

are hesitant to receive their degree because they risk losing financial aid and health insurance. Starting in spring 2011, Daytona State made a change in its catalog to address these concerns.

So what advice does Dr. Pastor have for colleges interested in adopting this approach? “Make sure you have the technology and manpower to run the reports, conduct the degree audits, and verify that requirements are met. Communication and cooperation is vital to making the process work.”

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Richard L. Pastor, Associate Vice President for Enrollment and Student Development
Daytona State College

Email: PastorR@daytonastate.edu / Phone: 386-506-4414

In the News



Florida joins Complete College America’s Alliance of States

http://www.fldoe.org/news/2011/2011_03_03.asp



Tallahassee Community College named a top 10 school in associate degree production

<http://www.wctv.tv/news/headlines/>

[TCC Named Top 10 of AA Producers 123944889.html](http://www.wctv.tv/news/headlines/TCC_Named_Top_10_of_AA_Producers_123944889.html)



“Super students” awarded degrees at Lake Sumter Community College

<http://www.lsc.edu/news/news/Dual%20Enrollment%20Students%20Earn%20College%20and%20HS%20Degrees.pdf>

“The Florida

College System

stands ready with

our partners to

assist in making

postsecondary

education a

reality for any

student that

pursues this

dream.”

- Chancellor Will

Holcombe

Resource Corner

The Finish Up, Florida! Program was launched in spring 2011 in collaboration with FACTS.org, with the goal of reaching out to students who left The Florida College System without completing their degree. Through the Finish Up, Florida! website, students can access their college records by following a five step process to see how many credits they need to earn in order to complete their degree.

The Finish Up, Florida! website is located at:

<https://facts23.facts.org/finishupflorida/finishupflorida.do?page=intro>



Division of Florida Colleges

325 West Gaines Street
Suite 1544
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Phone: 850-245-0407
Fax: 850-245-9466

Visit us online at

<http://www.fldoe.org/cc/>

Our Mission

The Division of Florida Colleges is a dynamic and responsive Department of Education team. We provide leadership and advocacy to promote education innovation and continuous improvement within The Florida College System, fueling economic development for the state of Florida and its citizens.

Our Vision

The Division of Florida Colleges will be the nation's leading advocate for postsecondary educational opportunity, access, and student success. We help our colleges change the world!



Call for Promising Practices

Do you have a promising practice that you would like featured in a future issue?

If so, then email Carrie.Henderson@fldoe.org with a 50-100 word write up of your promising practice geared at improving completion at your Florida college.

We hope to hear from you soon!
