INVITATION TO APPLY FOR THE 2016-2017 FACULTY INQUIRY TEAM

BRIDGING THE GAP:
Helping New Students Transition from High School to College

Do you remember your first day at college? Were you ready? Did you know what to expect or where to get help? New college students experience some amount of angst, confusion, and sense of feeling lost on their first day. Chaffey College students are no exception. Most students entering Chaffey College from high school arrive with myriad challenges, inaccurate expectations, and uncertainty about their major or career path. According to Chaffey College Institutional Research, Chaffey College’s first generation students (those who arrive with no prior college experience) attempt more units, but have lower GPAs, lower success rates, and lower persistence rates. Anecdotes have attempted to explain this paradox: high school graduates entering college often have difficulty transitioning to the college culture; they don’t know what to expect or have unrealistic expectations; they work too many hours, and are unaware of the rigors of college level coursework.

Regardless of the reasons, we need to maintain high expectations for all students, but we also need to provide a more seamless transition from high school to college. While incoming students experience many challenges, they also bring a wealth of skills that students didn’t have twenty years ago (e.g., technological skills, use of apps for learning, collaborative experience, etc.). As a college committed to teaching the whole student, our goal is to understand both the cognitive and non-cognitive needs and gaps in our entering students so that we can provide appropriate support and empowerment that leads to their success.

The 2016-2017 Faculty Inquiry Team is being formed in order to better understand and respond to our students entering from high school. The Bridging the Gap Faculty Inquiry Team (FIT) will research current students who have no prior college experience to examine the specific challenges, needs, and readiness gaps that exist in this population. The FIT will also conduct a literature review of scholarly work related to this issue. After reviewing all of the research, the FIT will make recommendations and share their finding and recommendations with the college community. They will also create tools, resources, and/or materials to support this effort as appropriate.

The FIT will meet once a month on a Friday from 1-3pm, with additional meetings as needed, including sub-group meetings, scheduled around the availability of the participants. FIT members will be expected to actively participate in all meetings, assist in developing, conducting, and analyzing research around the topic, create best practices and other related materials, and share the results to the campus community. FIT members will receive $1000 in FOSA after completing the FIT at the end of the Spring 2017 semester.

Application Process and Procedures

If you are interested in participating in this FIT, please submit an application (https://form.jotform.com/60938166316965) by 2:00 PM on Monday, May 6, 2016. The Faculty Success Center Advisory Committee will review all applications according to the criteria in the application and forward the names to the district and Faculty Senate.

The FIT will have its first meeting on Friday, August 19, 2016 from 1-3pm in the FSC (ATL-110). FIT research and meetings will continue meeting at least one Friday a month (plus additional meetings as needed) until the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Sharing of results will likely continue during the 2017 - 2018 year.

The Selection Process

The composition of this FIT will be made up of 12 faculty members, preferably from various schools/disciplines. Both full-time and part-time instructors are encouraged to apply. All applicants must not go over their maximum load in order to participate.

Collaborate with colleagues during the FSC’s sixth year of FITs!