Subject: UCR Student Life Cycle Facilitation Project

Facilitators:
Ann MacDonald, Leadership Institute Director, Winona State University
Theresa Waterbury, Institutional Research Director, Winona State University

Timeline: June 06-January 07 (Phase I-III)

Project:
The Student Life Cycle project is a collaborative initiative between the Winona State University Rochester campus, Rochester Community and Technical College and the University of Minnesota Rochester campus. It was formed to identify and remove barriers for student success and to reduce non-value activities.

Team members:
Kendra Weber – University of Minnesota
Audrey Lidke – Rochester Community and Technical College
Jan Stephenson – Winona State University

Purpose Statement:
The mission of the UCR Life Cycle project is to enhance the learning culture among the partner institutions based on trust; that fosters a student-centered approach so that students who engage with the institutions (returning to school, pursuing dual enrollment, transfer among institutions) will receive excellent integrated services that best serve their learning needs.

- To make the transition among the institutions efficient for students
- To provide accurate information in a timely manner
- To provide early effective career exploration
- To advise students efficiently in transfer process in order to minimize/eliminate unnecessary classes
- To utilize technology tools to enhance face to face communication (high tech, high touch)

Project Steps:
- Review best practices/acknowledged current UCR best practices
- Review literature
- Conduct focus groups/surveys/collect data
- Identify main functions that pertain to the student-centered approach
- Develop process map of activities
- Collaboratively identify gaps or shortcoming in current state & brainstorm solutions

Immediate Implementations:
- Improved communication among institutions
  - Cooperative activities
  - Increased participation in student success day, preview days
  - Recommend students add 3 FAFSA codes to Financial Aid forms
Short-Term Recommendations:
- Create UCR Centralized Data Collection
  - Application Data
  - Immunization Data
  - Transcript Data
- Communicate exceptions ASAP
- Easy access to program requirements
- Early warning notice to students when close to reaching FA limit
- WSU & UMR establish support for international students

Longer-Term Recommendations:
- Communication Implementation Team - Informational Flow
  - Academic flow
    - Curriculum requirements
      - New or modified
      - Exception waiver
  - Student business flow
    - Web interface for document tracking (ie: application materials)
- Marketing Implementation Team:
  - How can we sell our-self?
  - Community marketing
  - Student marketing
    - UCR partner recruitment
    - Create interactive, reality based media that appeals to students
    - www.benjohn.org

Career Pathways (UCR) Implementation Teams:
- Career Planning
  - 9-12 high school preparation
  - Career exploration
    - A day in the life of my career aspiration – video examples
    - Electronic “what if” scenario’s for varied degree options (vault.com)
    - U of M APAS
    - www.century.edu/lifeplan
    - Career exploration during course-work
  - Placement phase

What have we initiated:
- Counselor Appreciation Day
- Transfer/Curriculum Communication
- Updated transfer guide to include all Rochester Nursing programs
- Bio-Feedback Center
- Pathway for Communication

Lessons Learned:
- Timeline and scope alignment
- Complexity of systems
- Big picture of 3 institutions
- Communication avenue is critical
- Problems are treasures
- Focus on items we can influence