

The President's Column on Student Success



According to our mission: **North Central State College exists for the citizens of its service region to attain the knowledge and skills to succeed in their chosen path of learning, work or enrichment, sufficient for the college to justify available resources.** From this mission came our strategic plan goals of Access, Success and Resources.

Over the past couple of years we laser-beam focused on our resources, and together we were able to balance the budget, add to the reserve as a hedge against existential financial threats, improve our Ohio Board of Regents composite ratio requirement on financial stability, and provide a stipend for our hard working faculty and staff.

Now that we have placed our institution on a stronger financial foundation, it is critical that we turn our laser-beam focus on the core mission of student success.

A review of data and key performance indicators reflects a strong dichotomy between our challenges and our successes.

On the challenging side, and from data reflecting entering fall cohorts of post high-school students, we find that:

1. Considering the socioeconomic risk indicators, 25% of our post high-school students are low income (at 150% of the federal poverty level) and first generation (neither parent completed a bachelor's degree).
2. Comparing to students without the risk indicators of poverty and first generation, and on average from Fall 2011 to 2013, these students in their first year here :
 - a. Are 20% higher in development placement
 - b. Have completed 5% less in the number of the first-year credits
 - c. Have completed 13% less in the total number of credits
 - d. Are 19% lower in their GPA below 2.0
 - e. Are 11% less likely to persist to the following fall
 - f. Are 6% less likely to graduate in four years (Fall 2008 to fall 2010 cohorts)
3. More importantly, the 2011 to 2013 data was trending downward.

The key point from the data above is that we are not doing well with our under-resourced students, those who are economically disadvantaged and are first generation in their family to go to college. **Through this column, I am asking for everyone's feedback on how, from your perspective, we can do better. Please email me.**

We also have our successes and our intervention policies that will further enhance student success. I will be sharing that with you in the next newsletter in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, I look forward to your feedback.

Thank you for everything you are doing to enhance our mission of student success.

With appreciation,



HIGHLIGHTS

- The college has established a Leadership and Management Academy to provide professional development to members of President's Cabinet and the Manager's Advisory Council. The goal of these efforts is to improve the productivity and professionalism of every employee so that we may better serve the needs of our students and each other.
- We had a great turnout for Preview Night on March 5th at both the Kehoe Center and Health Sciences Buildings. Thank you to everyone involved for making the evening a success and providing quality information to the prospective students and their families who attended.
- The Art Show hosted by the VCMT program was also held on March 5th. It was good to see the students and their work displayed for a nice crowd. Special thanks to the faculty and staff who worked to organize the event.
- Have a safe and wonderful Spring Break everyone!



Bucyrus Chamber Breakfast

Dr. Diab was one of eight speakers at the **Bucyrus Chamber of Commerce Business & Industry Forecast Breakfast** on February 25th. He informed attendees that more than \$2.1 million has been raised for the Crawford Success Center, and provided additional updates including:

- That a director will be hired soon
- That construction should begin in April
- The Grand Opening is planned for Fall 2015

The crowd of more than 175 people also heard reports about things happening right now in Bucyrus:

- Avita Health, fresh off their renovation of the Lazarus Building at the Richland Mall, plans to purchase and renovate a former school building in Bucyrus for use in its Sports Health Division and for large meetings.
- ESCO moved one of its Canadian factories to Bucyrus and is completing a \$7 million expansion to improve manufacturing.
- Bucyrus Precision Tech attempted to use temporary workers to shore up its full-time workforce. It provided less than desired results with increases in both absenteeism and failed drug tests. Anticipating increased sales in 2015, they have increased wages by 12% to attract quality employees.
- GE added three manufacturing lines to serve WalMart as part of their Made in the USA line. They will make more than 15 million lightbulbs in Bucyrus this year.

- Timken formed the Timken Steel Company, splitting the steel business from the roller bearing business. They expect sales to increase in 2015.
- Ohio Mutual Insurance group announced their \$100,000 pledge to the Crawford Success Center.
- Jim Spreng tied these local updates to the world economy, reflecting on interest rate, and the situation in Greece and the EU as examples of the challenges facing all businesses in 2015 and beyond. "Employment is up, sales are up. There are challenges . . . there have been challenges for hundreds of years and there will be challenges next year when we come back."

These businesses and the hundreds of others throughout Crawford County and the surrounding counties are our new neighbors at the Crawford Success Center. They have needs for better trained workforce and there is a desire to see more people find meaningful employment to help local businesses grow. It all begins with education, and they are looking to NC State to help make it a reality.

There are a lot of positive things happening in Bucyrus, and North Central State College is one of them!

Ecerpts from Crawford County Now: <http://crawfordcountynow.com/local/another-positive-year-projected-for-bucyrus-businesses/>

Preparing for Emergencies

On February 26th, representatives from police departments, municipalities, EMS, and fire departments joined more than a dozen representatives of NC State and Ohio State (Columbus and Mansfield) for a tabletop disaster scenario. A situation was presented and discussed by the parties in attendance regarding what would happen in the event of a natural disaster centered on campus. The facilitator will

provide a report to attendees which includes gaps and opportunities to better prepare for a disaster. Everyone involved felt it was a good exercise, and future meetings using different scenarios will be planned in upcoming months.