

Area Report for March, 2006
Title III: High Risk Students

The following activities were highlights of work on the Title III project for the month of March:

Dr. Jim Young, the external evaluator for the T3 project, visited on Friday, March 17. He spent the day in meetings with the project managers and component directors and finished with a wrap-up session with the T3 Management & Assessment Team. Among his observations that were shared at the meeting:

- The project has met or exceeded the benchmarks set at the beginning of the grant that could be met by this point.
- The next phase of our work should be setting new standards and enhancing the colleges' ability to retain students, in general.
- In order to expand the T3 project's impact to students other than those targeted by the grant, the leadership of the College must be supportive and convinced this is in the best interest of the College.
- The clearest benefits of the project are illustrated by the increased retention and student success data, which show that the College is fulfilling its mission to serve students and the community better and that the College is also generating greatly increased FTE revenue due to retention.

Concerns/suggestions cited by Dr. Young were:

- The project must keep the components challenging – setting higher goals when we meet the ones required for the project.
- We can't let the project's success make us lose our edge here at the exact midpoint – we must maintain momentum and increase numbers.
- The College needs to focus now on what is going to happen once the project's five year funding cycle is finished.
- Staffing for SSC operations and full time faculty for the ACA 111 classes need to remain priorities and will become greater priorities as the project continues to expand.

