

**Achieving the Dream
Persistence and Retention Strategy Team
Financial Aid Subcommittee Proposals
Year One**

Strategy/Intervention: Increase rates of persistence, retention, and the degree of academic success of students, by insuring financial barriers are minimized.

Issues/Addressed:

1. Increase the percentage of OCCC AtD Cohort students who file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for Fall 2008 by 6 percentage points over the Fall 2007 AtD Cohort.
2. Increase the number of AtD Cohort students awarded and having financial assistance transmitted to their Bursar student account prior to the beginning of Fall Semester by 3 percentage points over the Fall 2007 AtD Cohort.
3. Assess academic success rate for financial aid recipients in the Fall 2008 AtD Cohort who have a \$1500 Expected Family Contribution (EFC) or less compared to the Fall 2007 AtD cohort.

Other Institutions: None

Measurement:

1. Calculate the number of FAFSA filings for the AtD Cohort for Fall 2008 compared to the Fall 2007 Cohort.
2. Calculate and compare with the Fall 2007 AtD cohort the number of FAFSA filings and assistance transmitted for the Fall 2008 AtD Cohort prior to the beginning Fall Semester 2008.
3. Evaluate academic success for the AtD Cohort in Fall 2008 for students with a \$1500 EFC or less and compare to the Fall 2007 Cohort.

Work Plan:

Action Item	Year	Budget Required	Person Responsible
1. Increase number of joint Recruitment/Financial Aid Office presentations to high schools and agencies serving adult populations.	2008-2009	None	Sergio Gallegos
2. Expand marketing of financial aid on College Homepage, i.e., Prospective Student Link; Right-to-Know link.	2008-2009	None	Paula Gower
3. Utilize students in recruitment process to improve communication with prospective high school students. Seek Community Service Credit for outreach services.	2008-2009	None	Sergio Gallegos, George Maxwell
4. Collaborate with Bursar to create a comment on Fee Statement encouraging students to file the FAFSA to help with tuition and fees and other costs.	2008-2009	None	Harold Case
5. Utilize Senior Lists to insure all contacts with area high school seniors include comments about filing the FAFSA	2008-2009	None	Paula Gower
6. Utilize Right-to-Know email sent to all students throughout the year to encourage they file the FAFSA annually	2008-2009	None	Harold Case

7. Grow the number of financial aid presentations for Success in College and Life courses and other student groups. Eventually develop video presentation.	2008-2009	None	Meghan Morgan, Harold Case
8. Increase OCCC faculty and staff awareness of general financial aid information and procedures through professional development activities. Encourage faculty to promote filing the FAFSA among their students.	2008-2009	None	Stephanie Hays
9. Utilize Hobsons Contact Management System to identify current and prospective students who make online inquiries about financial aid. Send message from Financial Aid office to individuals.	2008-2009	None	Paula Gower
10. College set aside \$50,000 each FY to enable Financial Aid Office to authorize late applicants for financial aid in any semester to use a memo from FA to Bookstore as a credit for essential books/supplies. Payment will come from financial aid payments made. Students ultimately not eligible will have charges paid to Bookstore by set aside program funds.	2008-2009	\$50,000	Harold Case
11. Distribute annually to faculty advisors and key Enrollment/Student Services Division staff the U.S. Department of Education's: Counselors and Mentors Handbook on Federal Student Aid as a resource for use with students.	2008-2009	None	Meghan Morgan, Joan Sublett
12. Recommend schedule adjustment to Division Tuition Waiver program to award for fall/spring as does Financial Aid Office. Students would know they have a commitment for the year as long as they maintain basic eligibility criteria. Commitment may help students persist and retain from year to year. Awards would be placed on students accounts early to help determine balance due. This enables students to better plan their finances. Financial Aid will check eligibility between fall and spring.	2008-2009	None	Harold Case

