



Merritt College Counseling Department

Counselor Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2011

Meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. In attendance: Pantell, Ciddio, Khoo, Zielke, Cardenas, McLean, Perez (intern).

1. **Prereq Clearance Form** Final review and approval. Pantell will give to front desk personnel and procedure will be implemented.

2. **Unity Council Information** Cardenas gave update on programs:

***MEDAS**

- Must take their assessment (diff from ours) in ENGL & MATH and pass both w/ scores of 18/20. Stresses Math competency in decimals and fractions. Can re-take if don't pass but must wait 1 semester (& recommend take either ENGL 252 or MATH 250). Offered on drop-in every M/W from 11-12. Prep classes offered every Tuesday from 1-4.
- Program is 1 semester; classes M/Th 9-12 & T/W 8:30-3:30; new class offered each semester. Also must complete 160 hour externship (40 hpw for 4 weeks). Top 3 or 4 students placed at Kaiser; others in other sites around East Bay. Program admits about 30 out of 100 applicants (~30%) on basis of 1) application, 2) passing assessment, and 3) completion of screening interview (looking for strong customer service and public contact skills). Usually begin application/interviewing in November for Spring admit and April/May for Fall admit.
- Most admitted students enrolled in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) so eligible for free books, supplies, uniforms, etc. Also have strong support while in program from case manager and others.
- Re: employment, good labor market and also provided job seeking skills such as resumes, interviewing, and "soft skills". Cardenas will be developing workshops on each. Unity Council accountable for placement statistics (which are now at around 90%) so employment heavily stressed. However, AB 540 students shouldn't apply for program if intending to work (since they're ineligible for employment), though some students take training just to prep for being family caregiver).

***Dental Assistant**

- Different from (and not affiliated w/) COA program; offered through Clinica de la Raza
- Also 1 semester + 160 hour externship (M/W 6-9 p.m.)
- NOT an ADA approved training site so may not be qualified for work w/ employers who require that. However, labor market is good enough that can find work after finishing.

*Medical Interpreter

- Offered in collaboration w/ Asian Health Services. Program is one semester; students take only our HLTOC 211 (not the full MC Medical Interpreter Certificate). Also has externship at Asian Health Services and must pass an MI exit exam.

*CHCAS

- Taught through Merritt as Chronic Care Assistant. Cardenas will provide more information in future.

3. Centro Latino Zielke gave update. Discussed recent successful program through Skyline HS where students interviewed instructors on campus. Also starting similar program w/ Life Academy and plans to expand to Mandela and Castlemont HS. Zielke also mentioned interns have completed shadowing and will be seeing students in reverse shadowing this week & next.
4. DSP&S Update Ciddio reported on their intern from SFSU, Emily Alexander, who has been working w/ them this semester. DSP&S Program also trying to develop student group w/ whom to communicate disability related issues. Please get ideas on how to develop to Ciddio.
5. M.A.P. Update McLean reported on meeting w/ local HS principals at Castlemont that laid groundwork for future programs between local HS & MC. Mentioned November 4th conference to expand on ideas generated.
6. Student Athlete Update Khoo reported that 90% of student athletes had SEPs by new October 15 deadline.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.