

TITLE V NEWS



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Component I: CBC Cougar Connections

CBC Cougar Connections/Camp/Bridges: Connecting Future Cougars to Campus

By Michelle Duran - Coastal Bend College

Cougar Connections

Preparing to attend college can be a daunting task for students. The application process, financial aid, and admission requirements, as well as being successful in college and making career choices can discourage students before they even begin their first college class.

Cougar Connections is designed to alleviate this stress and provide students with the information necessary to not only apply for college, but to be successful in their college career.

How We Did It

A team from CBC visited six pre-

selected area high schools to provide a checklist and information to students regarding admissions applications, programs offered at CBC, vouchers for a free ACCUPLACER (State of Texas alternative exam), and instructions for completing a financial aid application.

The morning visits were divided into three simultaneously delivered workshop areas. Area 1: students were guided through the FAFSA website, acquired a PIN #, and began the financial aid application process. Area 2: students were guided through a step-by-step process of completing the Texas Common Application form. Area 3: students were provided with

information critical to succeed in higher education.



CBC Cougar Camp

The transition from high school to college

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Upcoming Events

August	
8/8-8/9	CBC Cougar Camp
8/10	CBC Cougar Day
8/11	Mentor Training Session
September	
9/5	Fall Academy Sessions begin
9/28 (tentative)	Mentor/Mentee Kickoff Event
October	
10/29	Mentor/Mentee Mid-Semester Trip
November	
11/30	Mentor/Mentee Recognition Ceremony

Component II: CBC/UHV Distance Learning Academies



UHV and CBC Faculty Team Up to Sharpen Online Teaching Strategies

By Ernest Amador - UHV Newswire

Ten faculty members from the University of Houston-Victoria and ten from Coastal Bend College participated in the first of three academies designed to improve online course instructional strategies. The event was held at the Marriot River Center Hotel in San Antonio from July 26 to July 28.

The distance learning academies are part of a program arranged between CBC and UHV titled "Improving Hispanic Attainment in South Texas: Building Community Among the High School, the Community College, and the University."

Funded by a Title V grant awarded to CBC, the goal of the Title V program is to create more educational opportunities for Hispanics, low-income and traditionally under-represented students who attempt a baccalaureate degree.

"Online courses give many of the region's under-represented students a flexible option, and the number of online courses is on the rise," said UHV President Tim Hudson. "So it's good to see faculty from both institutions collaborate on such a crucial part of online teaching. In the end, the student benefits from this joint effort."

In addition to the summer academy, there will be one held in the fall and next spring. The summer academy participants are also expected to take part in the remaining two.

According to Chari Norgard, UHV senior director of Student and Academic Services, the first three-day academy familiarized faculty members with online teaching strategies. She also said

this 24-hour academy also provided a relationship-building opportunity for CBC and UHV faculty members.

"Creating an atmosphere conducive for teamwork and community building was easy," said Norgard, "The idea was to pair UHV and CBC faculty members who then shared online teaching strategies and



collaborated throughout the academy."

CBC and UHV have agreed to offer students a "2+2" transfer plan, which allows students to map college and university coursework from each campus for an easy, efficient transition to a junior- and senior-level institution.

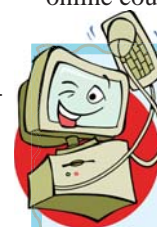
Dr. Teresa Le Sage, UHV assistant professor and academy participant, called the first academy a success.

"I think this first one was predominately to make sure everyone was on the same page and to provide everyone with a chance to become acquainted with one another, and it did just that," said Le Sage. "Since we have a joint venture with CBC, I think this was an excellent way not only to share and study online teaching strategies but also to strengthen our partnership."

UHV faculty members were not the only ones who considered this first academy a hit. Bobbie Jo Hill, Coastal Bend College mathematics instructor, said she also found the event helpful in more ways than one.

"Because I don't have very much online teaching experience, this first academy laid down the fundamentals of teaching online for me," said Hill. "And being paired with Dr. Patton—who I found to be very knowledgeable in distance learning—was a delight. I received invaluable information and developed a closer connection with our partners at UHV."

After the completion of each academy, participants receive certification and are eligible to receive a stipend and items, such as cameras, software, and other computer-related products to enhance online course presentation.



TECH TIP

Visit the UHV LTD Blog: Design, Technology, and Learning for information on

topics focused on helping you improve community in your online courses, utilize new technology, and save time in the process. Visit the blog at <http://uhvonline.blogspot.com>

To subscribe to the blog, an RSS reader is necessary. We recommend CITA RSS Aggregator, Wizz RSS News Reader, and NewsGator.

For a detailed RSS tutorial visit www.wizard-creek.com/rss/tutorial/

Component III: UHV Connections



The University of Houston-Victoria and Coastal Bend College collaborate to start Online mentoring program

By Rick Navarro - The Flame

The University of Houston-Victoria is recruiting students to participate in an online mentoring program to benefit students at Coastal Bend College. Coastal Bend College has received a Title V grant to augment the educational needs of underserved populations in its communities.

The mentoring program is part of a larger initiative that was recently awarded \$3.8 million. "I am excited, I feel it is a way to utilize technology to expand education," said Robert Cortez, UHV connections coordinator. Cortez said Title V grants came about as a result of the Higher Education Act of 1965. "The purpose of the Title V grant is to provide special funding for colleges and universities designated as Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI)," Cortez said. "The grant is designed to serve any student that meets the certain criteria; they can be students who are underserved, Hispanic, impoverished, or first generation," Cortez added.

Coastal Bend College chose UHV to partner with in a mentor-mentee relationship and help CBC students' transition to the next level. The mentoring program is a collaboration between UHV and Coastal Bend College in order to ease students' transition from the community college to the university level, promote the retention of underserved students, and increase academic success of impoverished or first-generation students through graduation.

What is e-mentoring? It is the relationship between a mentor and mentee, using electronic means to communicate friendship, academic support, encouragement, and guidance. Requirements for both mentor and mentee are as follows. The mentor, must be a current student, commit for one semester or more, must conduct weekly

communications with mentee, maintain a 2.5 GPA, and attend mandatory mentor training. The mentee must be a current student enrolled in the CBC system, willing to communicate with a mentor either by e-mail or telephone, and must sign a commitment to be in the program.

The e-mentoring program will utilize WebCT as a communications venue. The communications can be posted and responded to at the convenience of those involved in the e-mentoring program. The numbers of posts are not mandatory but communication must be maintained on a weekly basis.

The goal of the program is to recruit a total of 60 students to participate in the online mentoring program over the next 5 years. The program hopes to recruit these 60 students from CBC's main campus and its branch campuses in Alice, Kingsville, and Pleasanton.

"As soon as they told me that it was for CBC it tugged at my conscious a little because being from CBC myself and having transferred here I would be a perfect candidate for this e-mentoring program. I know what its like to come from there specifically and I know the kinds of things I would have liked to have been told and now I feel an obligation to pass it on to others," said Lacy Bonner, UHV senior.

Bonner commented that she has done all of her upper division work at UHV and her basics and associates work at both Victoria College and CBC.

Bonner emphasized the difficulty she remembers having when she first came

to UHV and commented on some of the things that were confusing when she first came to this campus.

"I did not know that UHV was just a two-year institution and you had to have so many hours to be enrolled here. When I first enrolled here at the university I only had 54 hours and no one told me that I had to have more. I was then told I had to be co-enrolled or be dropped from all of my classes. This I did not find out until all or most other colleges had closed their registration periods, so I had to enroll in Houston Community college for that

semester and drive to Houston once a month because I was unaware of the requirements," Bonner said.

Bonner said she had to learn the hard way and did not have anyone to show her the ropes.

"I just kind of stuck my foot out and tripped along the way," she said.

"It's just nice to have someone who will check up on you and knows what's going on."

Bonner encourages other students to get involved in the online e-mentoring program to help other students avoid many of the same mistakes she and other students have made transitioning to an upper division schools.

Students interested in becoming a mentor may contact Robert Cortez in Student and Academic Services at 570-4365 or by email at cortezrs@uhv.edu.



Special thanks to The Junior League of Victoria, TX, Inc. for donating to the Mentor/Mentee Recognition Event.

requires a more refined set of skills to be successful. Study techniques, learning styles, and the ability to access resources are skills that students must obtain or



improve in order to have a fulfilling and successful college experience. Cougar Camp, an overnight activity designed to connect students to Coastal Bend College, was held in August to help future Cougars identify the personal skills needed for success in higher education. Over 50 participants moved into the dorms on Wednesday for their two night stay.

The camp opened up with everyone getting to know each other better by participating in ice breakers. The students then participated in workshops that were designed to help students improve their study skills, identify their preferred learning style, familiarize themselves with plagiarism policies, identify how to access learning resources, and establish connections with faculty, staff and their future classmates.

In addition to the informational activities the students participated in Cougar Olympics--a friendly team competition that consisted of a series of physical and mental challenges. Participants ended the camp with a block party that included, dancing, singing, food and lots of fun.

CBC Cougar Bridges

Cougar Bridges is considered the 'first-year experience' for freshman college students. In this phase of Component I, 20 eligible students were enrolled for the

2007-2008 year.

Cougar Bridges activities throughout the long semester include Fall enrollment in a Fundamentals of Grammar and Composition, enrollment in Applied Psychology Learning Community, individual meetings with a counselor/advisor, meetings with a community/college mentor, attending a Cougar Bridges Transfer Conference, and participating in extracurricular activities.

During the spring, students will enroll in English Composition and Grammar, and Career and Life Planning Learning Community, they will also participate in visits to four year colleges, in addition to the above mentioned Fall involvements. During the summer, students will complete transfer preparation.

Overall component I is off and running and will continue to recruit new students to the Cougar Family.

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Title V--Improving Hispanic Educational Attainment in South Texas: Building Community among the High School, the Community College, and the University

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