

# ACADEMIC OUTREACH

## Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Studies

### Self-Study

#### Vision

Academic Outreach is committed to increasing educational equity and access to institutions of higher education among first generation students and students of color in the state of Utah through collaborative programming which starts in the PreK-12 formative educational years and continues through adulthood.

#### Description: Brief Overview of Academic Outreach

The mission of Academic Outreach within Academic Affairs is to

- ...take the lead in drawing the academic community into a University- and community-wide partnership on educational pipeline initiatives focused on creating greater college awareness, college preparation, and college access for students of color and first generation students starting in the PreK-12 formative educational years and continuing through adulthood, in coordination with Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Continuing Education, University Neighborhood Partners, Marketing and Communication, and Colleges/Departments;
- ...administer, collaborate on, and secure funding for specific programs, and develop new programs; and
- ...work closely with the Office of the Senior Vice President to strengthen the place of Academic Outreach at the level of the strategic planning process both at the University and in Colleges/Departments.

#### Significant Issues for Academic Outreach

Academic Outreach has identified several institution-wide strategic issues to be addressed in planning the recruitment of first generation students that will shape the process of Academic Outreach in the future. These issues are:

- First generation student and parent engagement
- Community and University partnerships
- Investment and creation
- Increasing awareness and eliminating barriers
- Self-reflection and evaluation
- Sharing our efforts with community and University
- Developing and facilitating new programming

#### Actions and Assessment Steps Taken in the 2008-2009 Academic Year<sup>1</sup>

Academic Outreach took a series of actions on issues regarding first generation students, students of color, and their parents in 2009-2010. I will briefly outline actions taken.

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<sup>1</sup> Assessment and pre-assessment steps are highlighted in yellow.

## Zions-ELI Scholarship Program

Academic Outreach, the English Language Institute (ELI) *Su Banco* Coordinator within Continuing Education, and Zions Bank have continued their partnership to provide advanced ESL classes to community residents. Cohorts 13 and 14 graduated in the 2009-2010 academic year. The Zions ELI Scholarship Program has served 230 students since its establishment in the Spring of 2005 and has an 87.5% TOEFL passing rate. In addition, in 2010 Academic Outreach in conjunction with the *Su Banco* Coordinator hired an intern to contact all graduates of the program to determine its success with a brief survey. Preliminary results from the survey highlight the success of the program. The *Su Banco* intern will be working on this through the coming year.

Academic Outreach, as part of its agreement with Zions Bank, also oversees Zions ESL scholarship programs at Snow College, Dixie College, and Boise State University. The *Su Banco* Coordinator in ELI and the Assistant Vice President for Academic Outreach continue to monitor Dixie College and the College of Western Idaho.

## College Partnerships

In the 2009-2010 academic year Academic Outreach has continued its relationships with three colleges to work on educational pipeline initiatives—the College Law, the College of Health, and the College of Education.

### ***College of Law***

Academic Outreach and High School Recruitment have teamed up with the Minority Law Caucus (MLC) and the Pro-Bono Initiative at the College of Law to offer Kids Court to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Rose Park Elementary School. The MLC students receive Pro-Bono credit for offering court curriculum to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students culminating in a Kids Court case and field trip each semester. 24 Rose Park students have been involved in the program in the 2009-2010 academic year. In the summer of 2010, the program will be working closely with Peggy McCandless's student teachers in the College of Education to bring Kids Court curriculum more in line with school curriculum. In addition, the two Kids Court coordinators for the 2010-2011 academic year have received a Spurgeon Scholarship to work on curriculum creation and planning in the summer of 2010. We will be assessing student and administrative responses to the program beginning in the Fall of 2010.

### ***College of Health***

#### “Healthy Choices” Partnership

Academic Outreach has teamed up with the College of Health to offer “Healthy Choices” field trips to the U for third graders from Riley Elementary School. Field trips take place each fall and spring semester and feature workshops on Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Nutrition, and Athletic Training. The field trips include a healthy luncheon and/ or snack and hands-on activities. This academic year at least 70 students, 4 teachers, and 1 Assistant Principal took part in the fall and spring field trips. In addition, the College of Health is earmarking ESS 4900 as a class whose students can offer Healthy Choices curriculum at Riley during the spring semester for 12 weeks. Preliminary surveys indicate that both students and teachers from Riley have enjoyed the field trips and are gaining knowledge about health issues as well. We are also in the process of developing new surveys to assess the progress of the program.

### LEAP Partnership

Academic Outreach continued to collaborate with Health Sciences LEAP to continue the Career Day Project for elementary school students on the west side of the Salt Lake valley. The project is centered on providing education and information to these young third grade students about higher education. In the 2008-2009 academic year, 6 classes of Health Sciences LEAP students provided a series of Career Day presentations to 230 students at Mountain View Elementary School and Riley Elementary School, receiving IRB renewal this year. The LEAP students have already completed pre- and post-student surveys in the Spring of 2010 and results of surveys have routinely established the importance of early discussion of careers among elementary school students. We will be developing further assessment tools in the coming academic year.

### ***College of Education***

#### Adelante Club U Camps

Academic Outreach continued to sponsor and maintain *Adelante* Club U Summer Camps in collaboration with Youth Education in the 2009-2010 academic year. The *Adelante* Partnership was created by faculty in the College of Education who formed a university-school-community partnership with Jackson Elementary School, to prepare students and their families for the university by integrating higher education into the school experience, while also helping to establish a college-going culture within the school. Academic Outreach also helped fund a graduate assistant to coordinate the *Adelante* Program. In the 2009-2010 Academic Year, Continuing Education is continuing to fund the program and received assistance again from the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation (through an invited proposal) to fund *Adelante* Club U Summer Camps for K-4 students. In addition, the coordinators of *Adelante* in the Department of Education, Culture, and Society within the College of Education have created an assessment feature for their program and provide annual reports on the project.

#### Family School Partnership

Another partnership with faculty in the College of Education is underway. This academic year, Academic Outreach has funded a graduate intern and a major event with the Family School Partnership who host parents and students from three Salt Lake schools at various events throughout the year: East High, West High, and Northwest Middle School. Over 350 family members, youth, and community attended this exciting event. This has been the largest event for the partnership thus far. The Family School Partnership will include assessment in their review of the program.

#### Transfer Initiatives

Academic Outreach and High School Recruitment have worked closely with a consortium of University of Utah and Salt Lake Community College leaders to create transfer initiatives. Two annual events took place in the 2009-2010 academic year:

- Transfer Multiethnic Panel Event—81 SLCC students attended the Transfer Panel Event at SLCC in the Fall of 2009.
- Transfer Visit—24 SLCC students of color attended a Transfer Visit to the U with several activities including a session with Admissions Advisors, a chance to visit various college advisors, and an evening basketball game.

In all 42 transfer students of color applied to the University of Utah as a direct result of both events this year. The responses to the panel event and visits have been positive so far. Surveys this year found that transfer students value the information they receive in both events year to year.

### Diversity Requirement Committee

The Assistant Vice President for Academic Outreach continues to Chair the Diversity Requirement Committee in collaboration with her counterpart on curriculum at SLCC. The DV Requirement Committee has been finally caught up to a long list of courses that had not been reviewed in several years, and this work has been completed. In addition, the committee worked this year to create a new mission statement, new criteria, and new student evaluation questions for the DV requirement.

### Changes Made Based on Assessment

- ❖ Based on the ESL needs assessment in the Salt Lake valley that identified a need for advanced ESL training for graduates of local public school-based ESL programs, Academic Outreach and the English Language Institute (ELI) within Continuing Education partnered to design a program for cohorts of advanced ESL students. Academic Outreach has continued to administer the program from year to year. In addition, a coordinator and a graduate intern for the program are involved in on-going tracking of the Zions-ELI *Su Banco* Scholarship cohorts through TOEFL scores for each cohort and other measures of success.
- ❖ The coordinators of the various College partnership programs—in Law, Health, and Education, are refining their programs year to year based on assessment reports and are also in the middle of development assessment measures.
- ❖ The Office of Academic Outreach works in concert with University College Advising and Student Recruitment on transfer student initiatives, and in particular initiatives for transfer students of color. This work is on-going in partnership with SLCC and grows, changes, and expands based on assessment from year to year. These efforts will continue with various measures of effectiveness including number of students applying to the U as well as surveys.

### Future Plans

- ❖ Continue to work on securing long term funding for Academic Outreach initiatives.
- ❖ Continue to provide funding and support for the Zions-ELI *Su Banco* Scholarship Program in conjunction with the *Su Banco* Community ESL Coordinator in ELI.
- ❖ Continue to provide funding and support for College Partnerships in Law, Health, and Education.
- ❖ Work to foster new partnerships with Colleges/Departments on educational pipeline initiatives.
- ❖ Continue to support transfer initiative events in collaboration with SLCC.
- ❖ Continue to develop professionally, attending conferences and seminars as needed.
- ❖ Continue to support miscellaneous needs including funding to support relationships with donors, equipment, etc...
- ❖ Gather measures of improvement over time with regard to increasing the number of first generation students to the U, through the Office of Institutional Analysis as well as Assessment within Undergraduate Studies.