

FYE: Under Construction

Report from Karla Wilson, Implementation Director

Increased advising support, adding an FYE course, implementing Academic Pathways, increasing tutoring, and creating a Learning Commons and multiple SMART areas are all stated goals in our Title III plans to support our StartSmart@CF mission and vision.

The phrase “*Enhancing the first-year experience*” is in the title of both the QEP and Title III documents; but what does that really mean?

Now entering our second year of StartSmart@CF, we have made significant progress toward this institution-wide focus on the first year. Here are just a few things at work:

- ⇒ Expanding the roles of our First Year Success Specialists has increased opportunities for interacting with the first year students. We now have a team of five StartSmart@CF advisors (including one supporting Citrus and Levy).
- ⇒ Our Gateway faculty are piloting the highly anticipated new Early Support Program (ESP) protocols and new software during Spring B courses. Look for updates for a full rollout of ESP in the Fall!
- ⇒ Every A.A. degree seeking First Time in College (FTIC) student will be required to take an FYE course starting Fall 2018. This very comprehensive team of faculty, staff, and students are building the course now and are considering best practices, institutional needs, and research based models. The FYE workgroup is engaging in comprehensive discussions to design this next big piece in the enhancement of our First-Year Experience. We will report more details soon.

These programmatic changes are important, however, a student’s First-Year Experience is just that, an experience; it is not a single activity, course, person, departmental responsibility or program. From the recruitment and application to our college until the completion of 30

successful hours, each and every interaction impacts how our students perceive what we call the “First Year.”

We are also excited to announce the selection of our Faculty Fellows. These individuals will serve as liaisons for StartSmart@CF; their primary role is to make connections

between departments, students, campus resources, meta major content, faculty and advisors. A primary role is to ensure FTIC students are on the right path academically and personally. Additionally, they will use evidence-based practice and research to lead faculty and staff development in areas of engagement, and pedagogy, as well as academic and career planning models.

Here is our team:

- ◇ **Steve Schenk** - Regional Campuses
- ◇ **Kathy Robbins** - Education
- ◇ **Andrew Jenkins** - Communications
- ◇ **Lynn Maltais** - Health Occupations
- ◇ **Amy Osborne** - STEM
- ◇ **Cynthia Moody** - Business and Technology
- ◇ **Liz Minnerly** - Arts and Humanities
- ◇ **Richard Kirk** - Social and Behavioral Sciences
- ◇ **Chris Knierim** - Interdisciplinary Liaison

We also will add an Advising Fellow to this team in the very near future!

We are looking holistically at what it feels like to be new to college, specifically on our campus, and determine other ways to positively impact how StartSmart@CF is implemented. What is clear is that every one of us has the unique opportunity and responsibility for enhancing the First-Year Experience for every one of our students.

