

Title V Newsletter

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Letter from the Editor

Congratulations on being a part of the Title V Team! We look forward to working with you and keeping you abreast of any news related to the program through the publication of this bi-annual Newsletter. In these pages you will learn about the program's inception, goals and objectives. You'll also be given the chance to meet some of the faculty advisors, learn about upcoming faculty training workshops, and be informed about college events related to liberal arts academic advising.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to send us any pertinent

news, articles, anecdotes, questions or information that you may wish to share and publish.

If you are you interested in fostering student success and would like to encourage students to make meaningful connections and sound educational, personal, and professional decisions during their college career, consider joining the Title V team as a liberal arts faculty advisor.

*Sincerely,
Dr. Nidia Pullés-Linares*

For more information and application forms, contact

titlev@bmcc.cuny.edu or

Dr. Nidia Pullés-Linares (Mod. Languages) (N545), npulleslinares@bmcc.cuny.edu

Dr. Rhea Parsons (Soc. Sc.) (N605b), rparsons@bmcc.cuny.edu

Dr. Glenn Miller (Mathematics) (N-533), gmiller@bmcc.cuny.edu or

Mr. Ray Klien (S-770a), rklien@bmcc.cuny.edu

or visit us online at

What Is Title V?

Title V is a five-year term \$2.329 million grant from the United States Department of Education under the Title V (Hispanic Serving Institutions) Program that was awarded to BMCC. The primary goal of the grant is to improve student success by introducing:

- 1) a new academic advisement model aimed at making students more dynamic decision makers.
- 2) the development of an electronic advisement database in order to improve the delivery of guidance and support.

Title V History: How It All Started

BMCC formed an Academic Advisement Steering Committee in 1997-98 to help improve the advising needs of its students according to the recommendations of the Middle States Association. The advisement period was enhanced by two weeks, and trained Peer Advisors were hired to assist students in the Academic Advisement and Transfer Center.

In the spring of 2001, the College was involved in the completion of a compre-

hensive self-study, as a prelude to re-accreditation by the Middle States Association. The recommendations and findings set forth by the Middle States have provided BMCC with an integrated strategy to serve as the framework for the Title V Planning Committee's efforts.

Their report stated that "BMCC needs to provide greater structure and opportunity for liberal arts students and... that each liberal arts student should belong to a group, either an academic program, a special cohort, or a department through which the student would be advised, mentored, guided and supported." The report claimed that the existing system of academic advisement for liberal arts students was fragmented, confusing, and difficult for students to navi-

gate. In a survey administered to students in Fall 2003, 56% of liberal arts students expressed dissatisfaction with advisement.

Building on the recommendations of the Middle States report and the Steering Committee, the Title V Planning Committee was established to include more staff and faculty. The 27-member committee was charged with the responsibility of identifying the College's most pressing needs and establishing priorities for the Title V grant application. The consensus of the committee was that the single most pervasive and critical problem confronting the institution was the issue of academic advisement and the limited support services afforded to the College's liberal arts students and faculty.

Title V Advisement Model

The Title V Advisement Model involves several areas of responsibility integrated into a functional advisement system: Students, faculty advisors, educational planners, peer advisors, DegreeWorks and Blackboard databases, and the Title V Steering Committee.

- Randomly selected Liberal Arts students will be assigned to an Educational Planner (housed in the Academic Advisement and Transfer Center) and a Faculty Advisor.
- Faculty will participate on a voluntary basis only. They will be responsible for advisement and tracking the progress of a group of students. They will advise the same students until graduation.
- They will be paid \$2,000 upon completion of advisement training and will be excused from working during the January registration period the semester following their advisement training workshops.
- Faculty advisors will only be responsible for their own cohort and will not be responsible for the advisement of walk-in students in their departments (assembly line). Meetings between

faculty advisors and their advisees will be done by appointments only.

- They will work in conjunction with the Educational Planners and Peer Advisors to reach students in jeopardy and to assist students during the summer months.
- A student database (DegreeWorks) will be used to track students' advisement sessions and to follow their progress towards their degree. Blackboard technology will be used to connect faculty advisors to one another and members of the same student cohort throughout the year.

Title V Goals

Assist students in making meaningful connections at BMCC

- Increase student retention in the liberal arts major
- Improve student perception of academic advisement
- Create an Academic Advisement Handbook for Faculty
- Track students through to the end of the college experience

Title V Academic Advising Training Workshop

By Rhea Parsons

Title V Academic Advising Training Workshop – Cohort A

Title V held its first Academic Advising Training Workshop for the initial cohort of faculty advisors on May 31st—June 2nd, 2005. The purpose of the workshops was to train faculty and staff in the models and assessment of academic advising, familiarize them with the academic advisement process, clarify the goals of the Title V program, and learn how to navigate the data management system.

The first day of the training was a special one due to our guest speaker, Charles L. Nutt, the Associate Director of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). Professor Nutt spent the entire day at BMCCC training faculty and staff in several topics including: “Utiliz-

ing the NACADA Core Values for Academic Advising; Advising as Teaching and Learning; and Assessment of Academic Advising.” Professor Nutt’s personal style of interactive learning through presentations and exercises made for an extremely interesting and fun-filled day.

Professor Nutt is the author of several publications and numerous presentations on academic advising and retention. He has won several awards for advising and is dedicated to building awareness of advising issues in higher education, especially in community colleges. The members of Title V are extremely grateful to Professor Nutt for honoring us with his vast knowledge and experience, and we hope to have him return for future training sessions. Anyone interested in NACADA can visit the website at www.nacada.ksu.edu/



The second day of the workshop featured members of the Title V Project. Nidia Pullés-Linares, Activity Director of Title V, gave the welcoming remarks and a brief overview of the Title V Grant: what it is, criteria of eligibility, and the application project. “The Role of the Title V Faculty Advisor” was presented by the members of the Title V Executive Committee to explain the goals of the program, the advising process, and the roles of faculty and educational planners.

Freda McClean, Director, and Lesley Leppert, Assistant Director, of the Academic Advisement and Transfer Center, gave a presentation called “Reading and



Understanding the Data Advisement Sheet/Wrong Advisement Activity.” This was an overview of the data advisement sheet and an interactive exercise in which trainees were given data sheets with errors and had to figure out where the advisement process had gone wrong. Needless to say, this was a popular session among the trainees!

Lesley Leppert and Rhea Parsons, Co-Activity Coordinator of Faculty Training, gave a brief introduction to Blackboard and Degree-Works, the two data management systems. Finally, Rhea Parsons led the trainees in an interactive session entitled “Legal and Ethical Issues in Advising” to explore the legal and ethical dilemmas that might arise during advisement. This session led to a lot of debating and some surprising information about what can and cannot be done in academic advising.

The third and final day of the training workshop was largely made up of BMCC faculty and staff who more often than not, work behind the scenes.

Cohort A Faculty Advisors

Gay Brookes
Developmental Skills

Miriam Caceres-Dalmau
Social Science

Janet Douglas-Pryce
Speech, Comm. & Theatre

Jack Estes
Social Science

Danna Ethan
Health Education

Diana Judd
Social Science

Kathy Kessler
Developmental Skills

Ken Levinson
Developmental Skills

Gloria Mc Namara
Health Education

Holly Messit
English

Elena Oumano
Speech, Comm. & Theatre

Rhea Parsons
Social Science

Nidia Pullés-Linares
Modern Languages

Alister Ramírez-Márquez
Modern Languages

William Roane
Social Science

Oneida Sánchez
Modern Languages

Mohammed Soleymani
Social Science

Cohort B Faculty Advisors

Andrea Alonzo
English

Felix Apfaltrer
Mathematics

Mabel Asante
Developmental Skills

Margaret Barrow
English

Steven Belluscio
English

In a session entitled “Referral Services,” members of the Office of Student Affairs explored how to recognize and make appropriate referrals to various student services. Marva Craig, Dean of Student Affairs, spoke about the role of her office and boundary issues between faculty and students. Precious Sellars-Mulhern, from the Counseling Department spoke about the very important issue of where advising ends and counseling begins. Dr. Sellars-Mulhern discussed reasons why students might need to be referred to counseling and how to go about it. She also shared sage advice about communication methods with students and confidentiality. Sandra Rumayor, Director of the Evening / Weekend Program, discussed the special needs of students who attend classes during the evenings and on weekends and what services are available to them and to faculty during those times. It was interesting to hear how BMCC remains a lively and event-filled college after the majority of us go home! Finally, Jason Luchs, Acting Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities, discussed how to manage

students who have special needs due to physical or emotional disabilities.

Freda McClean and Lesley Leppert later held a session on “Special Advisement Situations and Transfer Services” which covered articulations, transfer credits and program requirements. They also discussed special advisement situations, such as advising international students so that neither their ability to remain at



BMCC or in the United States is jeopardized. Finally, Ralph Buxton, Associate Director of Financial Aid, gave a thorough talk on how advisement can affect students’ financial aid status.

Audrey Bynoe <i>Developmental Skills</i>	Glenn Miller <i>Mathematics</i>	Jason F. Samuels <i>Mathematics</i>
Chokri Cherif <i>Mathematics</i>	Peter Nguyen <i>Science</i>	Christopher Swift <i>Speech, Comm. & Theatre</i>
Sherry Engle <i>Speech, Comm. & Theatre</i>	Segundo Pantoja <i>Ethnic Studies</i>	Elizabeth Wissinger <i>Social Science</i>
Paulette Henderson <i>Developmental Skills</i>	Claire Pamplin <i>English</i>	A.C. Towery <i>Music & Art</i>
Jenna Hirsch <i>Mathematics</i>	Antoine Pezon <i>Science</i>	Claire Wladis <i>Mathematics</i>
Lalitha S. Jayant <i>Science</i>	Michelle Rief <i>Ethnic Studies</i>	Dongmei Zeng <i>Developmental Skills</i>
Katherine A. Kavanagh <i>Speech, Comm. & Theatre</i>	Shanti Rywkin <i>Science</i>	
David Krauss <i>Science</i>	Rifat Salam <i>Social Science</i>	

Title V Academic Advising Training Workshop Updates – Cohort B and C

Since Title V's first training workshop, we are glad to inform that two other cohort of faculty advisors, Cohort A and B, have been trained as well (January 2006 and May 2006, respectively). Cohort B included 27 faculty members and Cohort C added 17 more from the following Liberal Arts departments: Developmental Skills, English, Ethnic Studies, Math, Music and Art, Science, Social Science, Speech, Communications and Theatre. There are currently 59 faculty advisors participating in the program.

The guest speaker for January's training session was Susan M. Campbell, President-elect of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). She is also co-editor of both the NACADA *Guide to Assessment in Academic Advising* (2005) and the 2005 Monograph, *Peer Advising: Intentional Connections to Support Student Learning* as well as a contribution author of *The Distance Learner's*

Guide (1999 and 2004, Prentice Hall). She is the recipient of the 2004 Service to NACADA Award and the 2005 Virginia N. Gordon Award for Excellence in Academic Advising.



Ms. Olga Vega is the DegreeWorks Project Manager at CUNY responsible for implementing DegreeWorks University-Wide. Over the past 24 years, she has served in various roles at LaGuardia Community College: as Registrar, Director of Enrollment Management, and Director of the Academic and Career Counseling Cluster.

Cohort C Faculty Advisors

Agwu, Nkechi
Mathematics

Ally, Matthew
Social Science

Ashton, Barbara T
Mathematics

Cheng, Vincent Tzu-Wen
Speech, Comm. & Theatre

Delano, Page Dougherty
English

Foster, Roger
Social Science

Henao, Eda
Modern Languages

Hill, Rebecca
Social Science

Jorif, Rolando
English

Maciel, Jorge
Mathematics

Onishi, Yuichiro
Ethnic Studies

Pari, Caroline
English

Pierre, Dwight
Mathematics

Richard, Jean
Mathematics

Simmons, Diane E
English

Wiseman, Cynthia
Developmental Skills

Wright, William
English

Title V Academic Advising Training Workshop

Past Title V Workshop Topics Have Included

Technology in Academic Advisement

Advising Students for Transfer to a Senior College

When and How to Refer Students to Counseling by Precious Sellars-Mulhern

Fall workshop topics and dates to be announced

Title V Executive Committee

John Montañez

Associate Dean of Grants and Development

Erwin J. Wong

Dean for Academic Affairs and

Title V Project Director

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N522, ext. 1351

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Allana Skerritt, Educational Planner

S763, ext. 7424

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S763, ext. 7130

Title V Planning Committee

Prof. Geoffrey Akst

Prof. Rafael Corbalán

Dean Marva Craig

Prof. Jon Dash

Prof. Howard Entin

Prof. Kenny Foster

Prof. Peter Hollerbach

Mr. David Hyllegard

Prof. Robin Isserles

Mr. Kahil Koromantee

Ms. Lesley Leppert

Ms. Freda McClean

Dean John Montanez

Prof. Sandra Poster

Prof. N. Pullés-Linares

Prof. Martin Russell

Prof. Danny Sexton

Prof. Mohammed Soleymani

Prof. Joe Ugoretz