

Honors Department

Mid-Year Progress Report for Academic Year 2014-2015

March 2015

Mid-Year Progress

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Honors Program—Provide Progress Updates to All Honors Program Students

Action Plan: the Honors Program Coordinator will look up and record each Honors Program student's cumulative GPA, number of honors units completed in courses and contracts, and number of honors units in progress. The Honors Program Counselor will then contact all Honors Program students with this information, letting students know their progress through the Honors Program and outlining any deficiencies and necessary remediation, such as improve GPA within one semester, see counselor for advising and creation of a plan to complete the Honors units, or enroll in honors course.

Measure of Success: all Honors Program students have received a progress notice. Improved communication between Honors Program and its students as measured by a more informed Honors Program student.

Expected Completion Date: before priority registration begins in Fall 2014

Evaluation: We have completely implemented this process ahead of the deadline. The Honors Program Coordinator keeps an up-to-date record of current Honors Program students, looking up every student's academic record every semester. The Honors Program Counselor sends letters to students, informing them of their status, with special attention to those who have fallen below the 3.25 maintenance GPA or who are not making timely progress, which is now officially defined as completion of one honors course or contract every academic year until 16 honors units are completed. Students have one semester to regain the minimum GPA, and those who fail to make this GPA are removed from the Honors Program. Inactive students are also removed from the Honors Program. The result is increased communication with Honors Program students so they know their progress in Program completion. Another result is a more accurate record of Honors Program students. No longer do we count students who join the Honors Program but complete no honors units or have a low GPA. This is not unusual of students entering as high school seniors who then never attain a 3.25 GPA at Cerro Coso, and these students are now removed from the Program in a timely manner. In short, this strategy has been wonderfully successful and will continue.

Honors Program—Sustain Program Growth

Action Plan: Send out direct mailings to all Cerro Coso students eligible for the Honors Program. Follow these up with information sessions at IWV and using videoconferencing to connect to Bishop, Mammoth, and KRV. Work with site directors to promote the Honors Program and advertise these information sessions.

Measure of Success: Information sessions held at IWV, Bishop, Mammoth, and KRV

Expected Completion Date: Before priority registration begins in Fall 2014 and Spring 2015

Evaluation: on track for timely completion. In previous years, a lack of District IR support made it difficult to obtain a correct list of students eligible for the Honors Program, but with vast improvements in District IR, this list is now accessible. A lack of time has made it difficult for the Honors Program Coordinator to do as much as might otherwise be possible in outreach, but much has been done and is in the works. Information sessions have been held at IWV, Bishop, and Mammoth for students, multiple times both via iTV and in person. Additional information sessions have been held for faculty at ESCC and faculty college-wide. Outreach to all campuses, including KRV, is planned for the fall 2014 before registration begins, starting with a direct email to all students potentially eligible, followed up with a college-wide informational session for eligible students. The approach is two-pronged: educate Cerro Coso students about the Honors Program and its benefits and educate Cerro Coso faculty (particularly non-IWV) about the Honors Program and how honors contracts work.

Phi Theta Kappa—Participate in College Completion Corps Efforts

Action Plan: Involve Phi Theta Kappa students and Cerro Coso students in the College Completion Corps, which aims to encourage community college students to complete their intended program, earning either a certificate or a degree

Measure of Success: Greater student involvement in the College Completion Corps effort and greater student awareness of the benefits of completing a certificate or degree

Expected Completion Date: Fall 2014

Evaluation: Moderate failure but not yet completely dead. This effort is entirely dependent on student volunteers. The Phi Theta Kappa Advisor met with the 2014-15 PTK Student Officers in May 2014 to plan a Welcome Week as part of the College Completion Corps. Great, enthusiastic plans were made, but when volunteers were sought in August, too few stepped forward. Instead, PTK supported the Cerro Coso Student Government's Welcome Week. This might be a better way to proceed in future years, depending on the plans of student government. PTK officers continue to discuss what can be done for the College Completion Corps.