Firefighter Pilot Project
Non-Traditional No More:
Policy Solutions for Adult Learners State Leader Meeting

September 16-17, 2009
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Nevada System of Higher Education

Impetus of the Firefighter Pilot Project

- Policy Change within the City of Las Vegas
  - An Associate’s Degree soon to be required for employment as a firefighter
  - An Undergraduate Degree necessary for Supervisory Positions/Promotion opportunities

Challenges

- Transition back to higher education
- Completion of core education courses (math/English)
- Transferability of previous credits received from a variety of institutions
- Degree flexibility/efficiency/adaptability
- Credit by Exam Familiarity
- Identification of Meaningful degree pathway and options for the profession
- Academic rigor while recognizing professional experience
Response

- Identification & commitment of a point of contact for the City of Las Vegas Firefighters, Dr. Mark Rivero
- Lines of ongoing communication between the university and firefighters established providing a voice and access
- Identified programs available within Southern Nevada
  - College of Southern Nevada
    - Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science Management
    - Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science Technology
  - Nevada State College
    - Bachelor of Applied Science in Management
    - Bachelor of Public Administration in Law Enforcement
    - Bachelor of Arts/Science in Integrated Studies
  - University of Nevada, Las Vegas
    - Bachelor of Science in Postsecondary Workforce Education & Development
    - Bachelor of Arts/Science in Multidisciplinary Studies
- Survey conducted of all firefighters by Dr. Rivero
  - Identified a baseline of educational areas
  - Preference for personal consultation
- Established a UNLV team to respond:
  - College of Business
  - Workforce Development
  - College of Urban Affairs
  - College of Education
  - Academic Success Center
  - Financial Assistance
  - Admissions
  - Graduate College
- An evening workshop at the Firefighter Training Session will be conducted to prepare for Spring semester, 2010 classes

Opportunities

- Nontraditional Student Campus-wide initiative
- Workshop Model application for other professions throughout Southern Nevada
Nontraditional Student at UNLV
A Summary Report
2008-2009

Who We Are

Nearly 30% of UNLV undergraduates are 25 or older. 50% of graduate students are 30 or older. The Nontraditional Student Commission was created as a result of the collaboration of the 13 Academic Advising Centers throughout UNLV. Chaired by Mr. Ed Ronca from the College of Education, this commission includes 20 individuals representing 15 departments, including students. The breadth of this particular commission reflects the scope of the nontraditional student definition and mission which was developed after fruitful discussion by the commission.

Nontraditional Students

Although there is no single definition, typically, a nontraditional student is any student who has been away from an education setting for an extended period. More often, the term, ‘Nontraditional learner’ has more to do with lifestyle than age. Nontraditional learners juggle school, employment, family, home, and even extracurricular activities. Some may come to college for the first time after many years of full-time employment. Others may transfer from other institutions, holding down full-time jobs or take night classes. Still others return to school after raising children. Part-time students, parents, and military veterans are examples at UNLV. We welcome you all as vital and vibrant members of the Rebel Community.

Our Mission

The Nontraditional Student Commission’s purpose is to collaborate with entities across campus to recognize the nontraditional student and to provide meaningful connection, useful services, and accessible opportunities that will assist them in obtaining personal and academic success at UNLV.
Accomplishments

✓ Hosted the 1st and 2nd Annual Nontraditional Student Open House, evening programs for nontraditional students to listen to a panel of peers and gather information about the upcoming year
✓ Updated and printed for the 2nd year the Nontraditional Student “Rebel Ready Guide”
  ○ Response was so overwhelming that a 2nd printing became necessary, bringing the total number of guides printed to 1,500 copies which are being distributed throughout campus
✓ Launched the dedicated nontraditional student website
✓ Designated a full time professional academic advisor for nontraditional students
✓ Chartered a new student organization, the Alliance for Nontraditional Students (ANTS)
✓ Created a designated presence on the UNLV Admissions web page for applicants to self-identify as a nontraditional student
✓ Identified 600 students who fit the demographics and definition we are using

Our Direction

✓ Establishing a nontraditional student meeting space in collaboration with the UNLV Multicultural Center
✓ Launching a series of speaker workshops throughout the academic year for nontraditional students
✓ Support and mentorship of ANTS
✓ Scholarships
✓ Academic Advising access and support

How you can help in the mission of the Nontraditional Student Commission?

✓ Contact the Nontraditional Student Commission with ideas and needs:
  ○ www.unlv.edu/nontraditionalstudents/
  ○ Commission Chair:
    Ed Ronca, Senior Academic Advisor, College of Education
    702-895-5979
    edmund.ronca@unlv.edu

  Director of Outreach & Transition, Academic Success Center:
  Liz Baldizan, Ed.D
  702-774-4626
  elizabeth.baldizan@unlv.edu

✓ Become a member of ANTS
https://orgsync.com/chapter/10072?full=yes#/chapter/1002