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LEARNING LOG

Determining If Lower-level Certificates Lead to Desired Jobs

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DETAILS

MAKING IT WORK, UNDERSTANDING WHAT WORKS, AND SHARING WHAT WORKS

TITLE

Determining If Lower-level Certificates Lead to Desired Jobs


SOLUTION

Redesigned Planning Advising and Student Services

CAPACITIES

Institutional Research

Owner

 [Kelly Mizell \(/education/s/profile/0053600000472B6AAI\)](/education/s/profile/0053600000472B6AAI)



Record Type

Monthly-Current 2017



INSTITUTION

San Jacinto College

REFLECTION

SITE INITIATIVE

Technical and Health Sciences faculty worked to determine if lower-level certificates lead to jobs in the field paying a living wage in the Houston area. This process will determine if lower-level certificates are mapped as part of Pathways or if they are removed. We believe that students consider earned certificates an exit point to local jobs in the field and that these jobs pay more than minimum wage. This review process is an effort to ensure that these jobs are actually waiting for students to compete for upon graduation and that they will be a wise return on investment for students in these certificate areas.

PROGRESS TOWARD STUDENT SUCCESS

We started by looking at certificate awards in the last five years. We believed that these data may indicate if students were choosing to exit at that point or were staying to obtain a higher-level certificate. In lower award programs (<75 over that last five years), faculty collected evidence of job postings in the Houston area that had qualifications fulfilled by the certificate. A final decision of whether the program should be retired or maintained will be made by a team consisting of the Deputy Chancellor and President, Provosts, and Instructional Deans using the data faculty compiled.

IMPACT

This review will reduce the number of certificates offered and will affect course offerings. We could survey former students to see if this effort has been successful in preparing our students to get a job on their chosen career path. These efforts will ensure that our students leave with certificates that lead to jobs in their field that pay a living wage.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL RESOURCES

Internal Resources: Faculty conducted the review of awards and collected data on job postings.

NEXT CRITICAL STEPS

A team of Instructional Leaders will decide which certificates do not lead to jobs in the field and should be removed. All decisions about what programs to offer must be made with students and their future employability in mind. And the information this review reveals about the relative value of specific certificates and choices students make must be clearly presented to students so they can make informed decisions.

OPPORTUNITIES/CHALLENGES ⓘ

Challenges – Some faculty were resistant to this review because they were concerned that they would lose some of their favorite courses. We chose strong faculty leaders to lead these Pathways Mapping Teams. They often reminded resistant faculty that this review was necessary to ensure that our students are getting certificates that lead to jobs in the field that pay a living wage.

QUESTIONS/REQUESTS ⓘ

STATUS

Final

Completion Date ⓘ

5/18/2017

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Kelly Mizell (/education/s/profile/0053600000472B6AAI) (San Jacinto College) updated this record.



May 18, 2017 at 2:11 PM (/education/s/feed/0D53600001IyAIVCAV)

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(/education/s/profile/00536000003BifDAAS) Jon Young (/education/s/profile/00536000003BifDAAS) (Fayetteville State University)



A very good, strategic review. I look forward to reading more about your findings.

Like May 22, 2017 at 5:40 AM



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