

Title V Update From SFCC President Sheila Ortego

3/14/11

Last fall, we received word our application for a \$3.19 million U.S. Department of Education Title V grant was approved. The funding, which we will receive over the next five years, provides support for Hispanic and low-income students to stay in school and improve their academic skills. A main goal of the program is better retention and graduation rates.

Dr. Cheryl Drangmeister, associate vice president for enrollment management, is head of our Title V team. Her focus is to put programs, systems and people in place to help accelerate student progress through the first year of college. Two key components of the project include establishing proactive, customized first-year student support services to increase retention, and redesigning developmental and core courses to address low success rates.

Studies show that if we can help students be more successful during their first year, they will be more likely to persist toward graduation.

Much progress has been made: jobs associated with the grant have been posted; a new Math course that combines Math 100 and Math 101 in a one-semester format has been approved; work on developing a "learning community" approach linking reading and introductory psychology is underway; a new section of PSYC 111 has been added; and discussions continue about linking other courses together in order to help students move effectively through developmental courses.