

## **Access, Success, and Completion**

Welcome to a new academic year that has started out with great positive energy! If you were not able to attend the two day flex kick-off you can still catch Friday's guest speaker on *iStream*. Dr. Terri O'Banion's workshop regarding 'The New Normal in the Community College' drives the point home with startling statistics such as 14% of all community college students do not complete a single credit in their first term and what about ALL the presidents in the Chicago Community College System being fired then invited to reapply for their jobs only if they will commit to increasing student success at their college?! Dr. O'Banion's presentation isn't just rhetoric, nor is it a trend that is going away in a few years. Frankly what is clear is if we don't rise up, pay attention, and do the hard work of changing our direction from 'access' to 'access, success and completion' we will become extinct! That said, I thank each of you for your candid discussion after our viewing of the presentation and supporting our college signing The Community College Challenge Pledge. Expect to see the pledge posted around campus to keep ourselves focused on our commitment to our students.

So what about the students' commitment to their success in the educational endeavors? Not only is there the pledge for colleges, the national student organization Phi Theta Kappa have challenged students to committing to the students' completion pledge! The next step is to engage our local chapter of PTK students to adopt this project to get the word out to all students so they campaign for a collective commitment to the students' pledge for completion. This can be found at <http://www.nisod.org>.

The Completion Pledge is not just for faculty and students. I understand that at this time only faculty and a few administrators were able to view the presentation and collectively agree to the pledge at this time. Therefore, I urge each of you to find time to visit <http://www.nisod.org> and select the Community College Completion Commitment. It is there you can read the background and submit your own commitment to the pledge as well.

Here is to increasing student success and completion, after all, I believe not one student enrolled and showed up this week to experience failure!

### **Accessing iStream**

To access *iStream* and view Dr. Terri O'Banion's presentation from the 2011 League for Innovation Conference first you need to create an *iStream* password. Go to <http://www.league.org/istreamsite/> to set up your own account by clicking on the button "Create Your *iStream* Account", your user name is your college email account. Once you access your *iStream* account, select Conference Presentation, select 2011 Innovations, and scroll down to Terri O'Banion's **The New Normal in the Community College**. There are also many more interesting webinars, publications, and presentations you can enjoy this whole year.

### **Digital Immigrants**

A 'take away' from the O'Banion presentation is how you discern who are digital immigrants vs digital natives. I end with one example he shared. "You might be a digital immigrant if you call a friend to see if they received your email."!

***Check out "Pony Espresso" for your morning and afternoon treat!***