Dear HCC community,

Welcome to Spring 2020 semester!

We got off to a good start with the SP Team Leaders and Cabinet meeting on January 13th where they participated in a Plus/Delta reflection on strategic plan work. They listed Pluses+ as items or activities that are successful and should be continued and/or built upon and Deltas Δ as those items or activities that provide opportunities for improvement. One exciting announcement came from Team B who noted that CPL (credits for prior learning) were awarded to one student for the one class they were missing in order to graduate. They are now scheduled to graduate in May with an A.S. in Human Services. A portfolio review and evaluation was conducted by Team B member Professor Allison Hrovat, and Chair of Human Services Donna Rowe. Professor Hrovat describes her experience with reviewing the CPL credits in the following manner:

We are really excited to have been able to get this off the ground for this very deserving student (and for others to come!). The Human Services department attracts a wide range of students, both those aiming to enter the field for the first time and those who have extensive work experience but lack the degree to advance in their career in human services. One of the requirements of the major is HSV288, a 125-hour practicum placement in the human services field. This is an exciting
opportunity for students to gain marketable skills and experience, and to build their professional connections within the local community.

However, for those already engaged in their career work, the time commitment required is often a significant barrier, as is the challenge of finding a placement that will truly serve to elevate or significantly diversify their knowledge or skill set. By creating the portfolio option, students are able to engage in a reflective process through which they are asked to articulate connections between the knowledge gained in their HCC coursework and their extensive experience in the field. Serving as a reviewer of our fantastic pilot student's portfolio allowed me to see firsthand that the portfolio allows for the same deep "a-ha!" moments that are experienced in the practicum course. Having the opportunity to learn in-depth about the professional growth and experiences of this student was very rewarding, and I am proud that our department will be able to continue offering this option to future students."

According to Kris Ricker-Choleva, Interim Dean of Business & Technology Division and one of three Team B co-leaders, a 2010 CAEL (Council for Adult and Experiential Learning) study of 48 higher education institutions and 62,000 students reported that learners with prior learning assessment (PLA) credit had better academic outcomes, including better graduation rates. It seems that HCC is well positioned to make that dream a reality for more of our students.

Stay tuned for more announcements about the wonderful work that our SP teams and others are doing to move our Strategic Plan forward.

Kindest personal regards,

K.C.

Kathryn C. Senie
Chief of Staff
Frost 305
(413) 552-2168
ksenie@hcc.edu