Graduation Initiative
Monthly Reporting Form
June & July 2011

Campus: East Bay

Team Leader: Susan Opp

1. What did your team commit to completing during these months? (What did you promise?)

- The McNair Scholars program will host a celebration of the students graduating from CSUEB and continuing on into graduate programs.
- University Commencements and celebrations will be held. Student Academic Services will host their “End of the Year Ceremony” in which the academic success of student participants who have earned a 3.3 or higher GPA and EOP and Renaissance Scholars graduates will be honored.
- The McNair Scholars Program will finalize their admission decisions for Cohort 2011, and have a program orientation in June. Current McNair Scholars will attend the SJSU Summer Graduate School Boot Camp from June 27 to June 30, 2011. Over the summer, McNair Scholars will enroll in the Summer Research Course (July 5 – September 4, 2011).
- A team of faculty, staff and administrators will participate in the AAC&U High Impact Practices Institute at the University of Vermont. From this Institute, they will develop a HIPs white paper to present to the administration later in the summer.
- Transfer orientations will take place in July to welcome new students to campus, provide information about student services, and connect new students with major and GE advising. AACE will offer individual assistance to students, and offer additional advising sessions to new students who do not attend Orientation.
- Final reports will be received regarding Graduation Initiative Projects funded with one-time Federal stimulus funds. Projects that have been successfully implemented will be encouraged to continue functioning with an enhanced focus on assessment of impacts on student success.
- A cultural exchange of 10 Peer Mentor (sophomore) students with 10 students from Fukuoka Institute of Technology in Fukuoka, Japan will be planned for late summer. The plan will involve having the 20 students meet first at CSUEB for a week and then in Japan for a week for a cultural and educational exchange regarding the value and work of peer mentors.

2. What did you do and how will it help?

New Initiatives:

- Five faculty, staff and administrators participated in the AAC&U High Impact Practices Institute at the University of Vermont with registration funding provided by the CSU Chancellor’s Office. At the institute, the team developed a plan to connect and expand the HIPs already in place at CSUEB, with a particular focus on underrepresented students, to engage more students in these practices that have great potential to enhance student success. One part of the plan in particular is to expand service learning experiences, starting with a mandatory service learning experience to occur in the spring quarter of the Freshman Year Experience program and later expanding to include service learning in the sophomore year as well.
- Graduation Initiative Projects which showed potential to improve student success and which had unspent funds at the end of the year were allowed to rollover the funding and continue their projects. In particular, these projects included online and peer tutoring, enhancements to student portals in PeopleSoft, implementation of online freshman advising and block scheduling of freshmen, and redesign of the basic writing curriculum. Continuing projects must report on assessment of results.

Communication:

- University commencements and graduation celebrations were held in June which served to connect students and their families with the value of a CSUEB education. Student Academic Services (SAS) hosted their “End of the Year Ceremony.” SAS recognized the academic success of student
participants who earned a 3.3 or higher GPA. EOP and Renaissance Scholars graduates were honored and presented with a commemorative medallion to wear at commencement ceremonies.

- The McNair Scholars program hosted a celebration of the students graduating from CSUEB and continuing on into graduate programs.

Improved Advising:

- In collaboration with PEMSA (Planning, Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Division), AACE (Academic Advising and Career Education office) instituted an “evaluator on-call” in the office during walk-in hours to expedite student issues with GE evaluations.
- AACE participated in the Summer Transfer Orientation, offering individual assistance to students who had particularly difficult questions, and provided additional advising sessions to new students who did not attend the Orientation.
- AACE presented, tabled, and advised new transfer students at three Fall Transfer Orientation sessions and the Nursing Orientation session.
- AACE completed the selection process for their Graduate Assistants to work on advising issues and research projects during the upcoming academic year.
- AACE counselors advised and continued “Counselor of the Day/Triage” assistance at the front desk for the Summer/Fall enrollment period and the first 2-weeks of Summer quarter.

Enhanced Access and Success:

- Eight Summer Bridge Peer Mentors were selected and participated in a two-week training to prepare for the 45 incoming Summer Bridge students. Their role throughout Summer Bridge is to meet 3 days a week in small groups to assist students understand their transition to college; peer mentors will attend General Studies classes and workshops.
- Student Academic Services hosted two mandatory “Transfer Welcome Sessions” for incoming students. After attending the 2 hour workshop, which provided an overview of services, students could then schedule a meeting with their assigned EOP counselor.
- The McNair Scholars Program continues to recruit and admit students for Cohort 2011. A program Orientation and Graduate School Instruction was held in June for newly admitted students.
- McNair Scholars attended San Jose State University’s McNair Summer Graduate School Preparation Boot Camp from June 27-30, 2011 and enrolled in the Summer Research Course (July 5 – September 4, 2011). During the course, students will prepare to present an oral or poster presentation for the 19th Annual McNair California Scholars Symposium held at UC Berkeley.
- Units within Student Retention Services tabled at new Freshmen and Transfer Student Orientation sessions to bring program awareness, answer questions, and recruit new students.
- AACE offered college success workshops for Project SOAR participants at Oakland area high schools.

3. What will you accomplish in the next two months?

- Mandatory freshman orientations will be held in August and early September. During the orientations, first time freshmen will receive information about becoming a CSUEB student and will be registered for the first quarter of their mandatory year-long Freshman Year Experience discipline and linked basic skills courses. AACE will assist in advising freshmen on course selection and registration.
- Sophomore Peer Mentor students will welcome 12 students from Fukuoka Institute of Technology (FIT) in Fukuoka, Japan to CSUEB for a week of cultural exchange prior to traveling to FIT to learn about the Japanese system of higher education. Then, the 9 CSUEB Peer Mentor students will travel to Japan to visit FIT for the continuation of their cultural exchange.
- Summer Bridge, a four-week program for 45 EOP exception admits, will begin on August 13, 2011. Students will go through an intensive program for math, English, tutoring, and general studies.
- Over the summer, Student Academic Services will offer workshops on Counseling/Therapy Options; Financial Aid; Major and Career Connection; Utilizing CBay; and Banking Basics and Credit Cards.
- Math 911, Supplemental Instruction, will be offered Fall quarter for all EOP exception admits that are enrolled in the 800 level remedial math.
• Student Academic Services will host “EOP Welcome Day” for 220 first-time freshman; students’ parents or guardians are required to attend. The day will provide students with a greater understanding of the support and resources within the department, the requirements for maintaining their EOP grant, and an opportunity to meet and get to know counselors, peer mentors, and other EOP students.

• McNair Scholars will attend and present their research (or proposals) at the 19th Annual McNair California Scholars Symposium and participate in graduate school tours of Stanford and UC Berkeley.

• AACE staff will attend a Career Services Institute (CSI) workshop at San Jose State University to gain insight on current career trends.

• AACE will offer group advising sessions to new Fall 2011 transfer students who did not attend an orientation session.

• Student Retention Services units will participate in the “Gallery of Resources Poster Session” during the “Back to the Bay” conference.

• EXCEL will focus its efforts on providing counseling and tutoring to new and returning students. It will continue to participate in university-wide events to promote the EXCEL program and recruit students.