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

- 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. The Academic Advising and Career Education (AACE) staff 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.

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

New Initiatives:

- CSUEB Peer Mentor students, who had just completed their sophomore peer mentor year, participated in a cultural exchange with 12 students from FIT, first for a week in California, followed by a week in Japan. The students learned about the educational systems of the respective countries and created a video of their experiences that documents the tremendously positive effect this cultural exchange had on both CSUEB and FIT students. FIT is considering implementing a similar peer mentor program to improve student retention and success at their university based on our model. Next March, we will take another group of Peer Mentor students to FIT for a cultural exchange, and we hope to continue taking Peer Mentors to FIT for the next 3 years. We expect that this added incentive of international travel and cultural exchange (at no cost to the students) will provide encouragement for more students to join the Peer Mentor Program.
- Thirty-eight new sophomore Peer Mentors started their duties in September and met with the freshman students and instructors they will be assisting all year.
• Associated Students Inc. endorsed the Freshman Year Experience program by providing funds to assist the Peer Mentors with developing freshman study groups during the academic year.

• A new campus-based fee, locally called the A2E2 Fee (Academic Access, Enhancement and Excellence Fee), was approved for CSUEB and will start in Winter 2012. Part of this fee will be used to enhance advising and tutoring services and to expand high impact practices, particularly specific focused interventions, including innovative hands-on creative approaches that will increase the retention and success of underrepresented students.

• Ninety iPads were purchased for experimental use with freshman students in the General Studies (freshman seminar) classes this year. The impact of iPad use on freshman learning and classroom engagement will be assessed and compared to classes that did not use iPads. The data from these studies will be used to inform future decisions about the use of electronic devices in the classroom.

Improved Advising:
• Mandatory freshman orientations were held in August and September where freshmen registered for their first quarter of the mandatory Freshman Year Experience after learning about the linked discipline and basic skills courses that make up the course clusters. AACE and EOP presented and advised incoming freshmen and transfer students regarding course selection, registration, and transcript evaluation (for transfers) during all six Fall Orientation sessions.

• AACE staff attended the annual Career Services Institute (CSI) drive-in workshop at San Jose State University to gain insight on current career trends and anticipated future directions in the career education field.

• AACE offered group advising session twice weekly for new Fall 2011 transfer students during September.

• AACE presented general advising information during RN-BSN Orientation for new Fall 2011 students.

Enhanced Access and Success:
• Student Academic Services hosted EOP Welcome Day on September 17th – which is required for all EOP incoming first-time freshmen. Attendees took the online version of the College Student Inventory, which will provide EOP Counselors with a greater understanding of students’ strengths, challenges, and motivation.

• This quarter, the Math department is offering two sections of supplemental instruction, Math 911, to EOP FTF students who are enrolled in 800 level of remedial math.

• Eight continuing EOP students were chosen to serve as EOP Peer Mentors during the academic year to assist first-time freshman and second year students.

• Forty-five new FTF were selected to participate in the Summer Bridge Program. Students went through an intensive program of math, English, tutoring, General Studies, and supplemental instruction. Forty-three completed the program successfully and were admitted to CSUEB and EOP.

• Over the summer, Student Academic Services offered workshops on Financial Aid, an overview of the Library, campus resources, and time management. Empowerment groups for women and men were also formed.

• Units within Student Retention Services tabled at new Freshman and Transfer Student Orientation sessions to bring program awareness, answer questions, and recruit new students.

• Student Retention Services staff attended the “Back to the Bay” conference and participated in the “Gallery of Resources Poster Session” to promote their programs and services, and explore collaboration opportunities.

• Ten McNair Scholars attended and presented their research (through oral presentation or poster session) at the 19th Annual McNair California Scholars Symposium and participated in graduate school tours of Stanford and UC Berkeley.

• The McNair Scholars Program Director attended the 30th Annual Council for Opportunity in Education Conference (COE) in Washington, D.C.; and a regional meeting of McNair Directors at CSU Monterey Bay.

• As a result of EXCEL promotion activities in August and September 2011, 57 new students enrolled in the program during September and October 2011. Majority of the students are female (67%). African-American students constitute the largest ethnic group (32%) followed by Hispanics/Latinos (28%) and Asians (18%). Sixty-three percent of the new students are low-income, first generation
college students; 9% are first generation college students, and 18% percent are students with disabilities.

- The Library, which teaches a mandatory information literacy course for all native freshmen, has begun to analyze the impact the Information Literacy course has had on the graduation of students in a timely manner. Of the approximately 900 freshmen who entered in 2006, the Library found that 38% of the 680 students who took the course graduated in five years. Of the 220 students who did not take the course, 2% were found to have graduated in five years. Library faculty are working with General Studies faculty to link the information literacy course with the freshman seminar course to enhance student enrollment and success.

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

- Individual Education Plans will be developed for all McNair Scholars.
- McNair Scholars Program Coordinator will attend the Central California WESTOP 2011 Professional Development Seminar.
- In collaboration with APGS, McNair Scholars will attend a GRE Prep Preview offered by Testing for the Public.
- McNair will coordinate Personal Statement Workshops for second year scholars.
- URM students from EOP, EXCEL, and McNair will attend The California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education at University of San Francisco.
- The McNair Scholars Program will host the 4th Annual Fall Research Symposium on November 18, 2011. The scholars will present their research proposals to students, faculty, staff, and administrators.
- Midterm Progress Reports will be requested of all faculty who have EOP students that fall under one of the following categories: First-time freshman, enrolled in remedial classes, or on academic probation.
- AACE Counselors will continue Counselor of the Day/Triage assistance at the front desk for first 2-weeks of Fall quarter.
- AACE will collaborate with Student Leadership in offering a series of “Smooth Transitions” programs for incoming students who did not attend New Student Orientation programs.
- AACE will develop ways to better advertise their office location and services for new students at the start of the academic year.
- AACE will invite employers to come to campus to work with students interested in perfecting their resumes in advance of the Career Fair.
- AACE will present the first of four Career Fairs scheduled over the academic year which will coincide with a Graduate Fair on campus on October 20, 2011.
- Individual counseling and tutoring will be a focus of EXCEL program in October and November 2011.
- On November 1, 2011, a new counselor will join EXCEL. The program will take this opportunity to review existing procedures, policies, and activities.
- Student Retention Services units and Peer Mentors will participate in the “Al Fresco” in October to promote their programs and recruit new students.
- On November 19, 2011 CSUEB will host the fourth annual Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS): Male Initiative - Bridge Builders Forum. The growing numbers of African American and Latino males who drop out of high school and do not attend college is the focus of the one-day conference. The event is co-sponsored by the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, Hispanic Scholarship Fund, and CSU East Bay.
- Connections between the Peer Mentor program and American Language Program (ALP) will be developed in anticipation of ALP students matriculating to the University in Winter 2012. The Peer Mentors will serve as mentors to the ALP students who are international students taking intensive English language courses through extension.
- A pre-matriculation freshman advising webpage will be developed for an anticipated go-live date in Spring 2012 to connect accepted freshmen with the Freshman Year Experience program prior to attending orientation in the summer. The advising webpage will allow online and Skype advising of accepted and SIR’ students.