Strengths-based Learning Team
2008-2009

Vision: To foster a strengths-based learning environment at SJSU

Core Values:
- To support the success of all students.
- To break down the silos that limit individual and institutional efficacy at student success.
- The belief that a strengths-based approach will help us to live out these values.

Guiding Values:
- Collaborating between and within academic and student affairs to support the whole student. Fostering an integrated campus community
- Supporting both the individual, in terms of deepening self-awareness, as well as the environment, providing a common language for us to discuss strengths as pathways to success.
- Moving forward with attention to professional standards, e.g., gathering data, establishing goals and learning outcomes, using evidence based practices.
- Making an effort to better reflect our campus population.
- Applying a strengths based approach to our own process; recognizing and drawing on the strengths within our group.

Goals:

1. **Focus on training faculty and staff during fall and spring**
   a. Start by training Sbalt members or their reps.
   b. Conduct outreach to academic and student affairs colleagues representing a cross-section of departments. Priority given to those who connect to key populations, trainers/advisors, and those who represent our campus population.

Outcomes:
- Sbalt members trained; Deanna and Laurie attend Advocate’s training in NE
- Two extensive trainings held (Sept/April); numerous one-one contacts with faculty/staff
- 5 faculty members trained representing 4 departments
- 40 student affairs members trained, representing 17 departments
- Total of 45 faculty/staff have gone thru enhanced training
- Connected with HR; will train HR staff this summer
2. Selectively assist students with strengths knowledge development, particularly those at risk (e.g., FYE, EOP, Transfers, Athletes, Foster Youth, ASPIRE, undeclared frosh, MUSE).

Outcomes:
- Athletes – variety of teams trained; more to be trained in fall
- CME Foster Youth – IRB process completed; students trained
- 2 workshops offered as part of Spartan Success series
- 120 Student leaders exposed to SQ at leadership conference
- Conducted numerous one-one sessions with students
- Numerous students exposed at Spartapalooza Wellness Festival

3. Integrate our efforts to strengthen advising using SQ tool.

Outcomes:
- Two large group trainings offered (Sept/April)
- Funding secured to support 09-10 cross-section of peer advisors.
- Peer Advisors trained in the following areas: Peer Health Educators, Cesar Chavez Com Action Ctr., I-House RA’s, Mental Health Ambassadors,
- Advisors/counselors trained from the following areas (not necessarily at Educator level but familiar with the tool): Wellness and Health Promotion, Counseling Center, Res Life, Career Center, Academic Advising, EOP, AS, Athletics, DRC, Moss Landing Marine Lab, SOAR, Health Center, LARC, MOSAIC, International Programs & Svs.

4. Seek funding sources.

Outcomes:
- Student Health Center provided seed money to support the rollout of SQ.
- Created bullet points for Veril to take to President.
- Div of Student Affairs provided funding for April training.
- Marketed tool to departments who elected to buy codes (SHC, Career Ctr, Athletics, I House, HR, Housing, Counseling, Student Outreach, Advising Council, Student Involvement,

5. Miscellaneous marketing/accomplishments
- Bookstore committed to purchase SQ books and sell
- Newsletter created and sent out 2x month to SQ community
- Targeted outreach to key faculty, staff and administrators: Dir of Bus Student Advising Center, Chair of Psych, Art faculty, Jennifer Whitmore, CFD Mary Fran Breiling, AVP Sharon Willey, Edco, Science 2, HR Director.