

**Southwestern Community College  
Student Success Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 28, 2016 (2:00 pm)  
Burrell 301**

**Committee Members (Bold=In attendance):** Martin Aucoin, Scott Baker, Mary Bradley, Thom Brooks, William Brothers, Cheryl Contino-Conner, Johnathan Dean, Debra Eavenson, Mark Ellison (chair), Bethany Emory, Mitch Fischer, Melody Lawrence, Erin McCully, Elaine Merritt, Danell Moses, Belinda Petricek, Margaret Petty, Barb Putman, Amy Russ, Jay Sain, Debbie Smith, Amber Sutton, Jeanette White

### **Discussion Topics**

#### **1. Career Services**

Michael Despeaux, Southwestern's Career Counselor visited with the committee and presented information on the services being offered to SCC students. He discussed the importance of development partnerships on campus and in the community, the growing emphasis on career preparation, job skills, alumni engagement and mentoring. He mentioned current efforts to increase utilization of LinkedIn working collaboratively with Brett Woods (SCC Foundation) and Tyler Goode (Public Relations). He also reviewed the role of the Career RAT in implementing these initiatives Mike's Powerpoint is available via this [link](#) for review.

#### **2. SCC's Loan Default Rate**

Melody Lawrence, Director of Financial Aid discussed the loan default rate and the latest projection for SCC is 23%, a decline from the default rate the prior year. Current indicators are that the default rate for next year will be even lower.

#### **3. Retention Action Team Updates**

**Native American MENToring Program:** Mark Ellison provided an update on the MEN's RAT (Native American MENToring Program). The program is currently hosting two screenings of the documentary First Language: The race to save Cherokee to help raise awareness of the program.

**Women on the Way:** Jeannette White indicated that the current group of volunteers involved with this RAT are trying to find someone new to provide coordination. Cheryl Contino Conner mentioned that since participation in RATS is voluntary Retention Action Teams can become inactive for a while and then be reactivated as need arises.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.