A Message From:
Dr. Mike Rollo, Vice President of Student Affairs

Through our Office of Student Support and Outreach Programs, we continue to successfully serve at-risk under-represented students at FGCU and in the local communities. Together, the Scholars Program and CROP reached over 1,500 multicultural students, ranging from grades 4-12, providing these students with the tools and confidence needed to become a successful student at the college level. Participants in our Student Support Services Program achieved excellent academic progress, evidenced by the fact that 96% of the participants either returned to the University in Fall 2009 or graduated, and 97% of all participants served were in good academic standing.

For comments or suggestions regarding this issue, please contact:
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Connections is available at studentservices.fgcu.edu/publications

Connections may be obtained in an alternative format by contacting the Office of Institutional Equity & Compliance at 239-590-7405 or 800-590-3428, or the Office of Adaptive Services at 239-590-7956.

Office of Student Support Services and Outreach Programs

Student Support Services

The purpose of the Student Support Services (SSS) Program, funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and FGCU, is to bolster the academic achievement of participants, retain participants each year, and meet their goal of graduation from the university.

Student Support Services on ANGEL

In collaboration with the E-Learning Department, SSS created an interactive, online community group within ANGEL to better serve its participants. The modules assist students with time management, college terminology, learning styles, and communicating with professors. Also, the SSS staff utilizes the calendar within the community group for listing workshops, events, announcements, as well as posting participant forms. Based upon participant evaluations built into the ANGEL system, this online format has been helpful to students in their adjustment to university life and meeting the SSS program requirements.

- 170 qualified SSS participants were served in the academic year 2008-2009
- 50 new students were accepted into SSS for Fall 2009
- 75 SSS participants were served through the SSS Peer Advocate Program
- $38,500 in Grant Aid was awarded to SSS participants in the Fall 2009 semester
- $43,880 in Grant Aid was awarded to SSS participants for 2008-2009

Outreach Programs

College Reach Out Program

The College Reach Out Program (CROP), funded by the State of Florida and FGCU matching funds, is designed to prepare over 600 under-represented middle and high school students to successfully pursue and complete a post-secondary education. CROP promotes academic achievement, college knowledge, test preparation, leadership, and financial literacy. Academic and assessment results are obtained from the participating school districts and reported to the State of Florida through a CROP state-wide database. The participants are monitored from the time they enter the program, as early as sixth grade, until they graduate from high school and enroll in college.
The Scholars Program provides assistance and enrichment opportunities for students who are considered “at-risk” due to under-representation or economic status. The program is locally funded by organizations including United Way of Lee County, Collier and Lee County Schools, Mediterra, Regions Bank, Cedar Rapids Foundation, and Florida Gulf Coast University. Scholars Chapters promote academic achievement and leadership to over 900 minority and “at risk” students at participating elementary, middle, and high schools. Participants are required to maintain a 2.5 GPA, attend meetings and practice good leadership.

By participation in programs which promote academic success, our students gain advantages such as help in the higher education enrollment process. The CROP and Scholars programs each have school site coordinators or advisors working with students during the school year, addressing the specific goals of each program including academic support, college knowledge, test preparation, leadership, and financial literacy. The FGCU Outreach Programs staff members work with these groups through on-site school visitations, student visitations to FGCU, Scholars Chapter induction ceremonies and recognition programs. Both programs are combined to participate in University experiences and activities to enhance exposure to higher education.

**CROP PROGRAM 2008-2009**
- 93% Graduation Rate from high school
- 58% College Enrollment Rates through tracking in Clearinghouse & Coordinator

**SCHOLARS PROGRAM 2008-2009**
- 95% Graduation Rate from high school
- 53% College Enrollment Rates

**Activities**
Student Teams from CROP and Scholars Programs participated in an academic Brain Bowl held at FGCU in November. First place in the high school competition was captured by Clewiston High School’s CROP team under the direction of On-Site Coordinator, Johnathan Williams. First place in the middle school competition went to Veterans Academy’s Scholars Program team with the guidance of Scholars Advisor, Keith White. Both teams will participate in regional competition in January at Florida International University.

**CROP and Scholars Programs Fall Semester Activities**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Participation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CROP &amp; Scholars Staff Orientation</td>
<td>35 On-Site Coordinators and Advisors Attended</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Brain Bowl Competition</td>
<td>118 students, staff and parents attended</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eagle Expo at FGCU</td>
<td>113 program students and chaperones participated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholars Program Induction Ceremonies</td>
<td>433 students were inducted in 14 ceremonies</td>
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