IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Site Partnership: **Central Piedmont Community College**   Updated: 03/20/07

Provide a brief report citing five of the major strategies that you are using in your project. A short paragraph describing how these strategies are being used is also required.

STRATEGY:	**Develop rapport with high school counselors and faculty members.**
DESCRIPTION:	High school counselors are invited to meetings on the CPCC campus and are given exposure to many of the College programs. In addition to these meetings CPCC is making an effort to provide additional opportunities for interaction between CPCC and the high school counselors, faculty, and students. An IT curriculum facilitator spends two hours per week is a office space where students, counselors, and faculty members are encouraged to talk with the facilitator about the College IT curricula, entrance requirements, placement testing, financial aid, etc. For an addition two hours per week, the facilitator has a table in the cafeteria and answers questions about all College programs. As the CPCC partnership expands beyond IT and into Health Services/Nursing a counselor is developing materials to use at Berry and other high schools to explain these programs. The counselor will be going on site to provide guidance in the programs.
STRATEGY:	**Give high school students as early of an assessment of where they stand in relation to entering the college as possible.**
DESCRIPTION:	The Accuplacer test is used by CPCC to place students in Math and English/Reading courses. CPCC administers the Accuplacer at each of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools high schools. Currently this testing is being done in the 12th grade. Talks are underway to move the testing to the 10th or 11th grade. The earlier test results can be used for diagnostic purposes and guidance given the high school students as to what courses they should be taking to avoid the need for remediation in college. At present students planning to enroll at CPCC are given a chance to review their results and retake the test if they request to do so. With permission of the students/parents, CPCC shares the results with the counselors, parents, students, and the college.
STRATEGY:	**Use an experienced facilitator/mentor to ease high school student fears of entering college.**
DESCRIPTION:	Prior to the completion of high school, use a facilitator who is experienced in curricula pathways and requirements at the college level and how the actual registration at the college is to be completed. Each high school sets up a day (typically 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM) at which CPCC counselors and program specialists meet with students to advise the students, enroll them at CPCC if desired, help with the financial aid forms, and provide curriculum program guidance. By meeting with students at the high school prior to their graduation and answering their questions, supporting visits so that students can become familiar with the college campus, and directly aiding students in registering for college these facilitators and counselors can greatly ease student fears and make them feel comfortable and welcome at the college.
STRATEGY:	**Use non-threatening, voluntary after-school clubs to interest students not traditionally drawn to the curricula.**
DESCRIPTION:	TechConnect is an after-school information technology club. TechConnect membership is voluntary. One of the most attractive aspects of the after-school 'tracks' is that the tracks are taught by volunteers from local business and industry. Different tracks exist so that the club can rotate tracks over a period of years to that the tracks are fresh to students each term and from year to year. Tracks are chosen to expose students to the IT field in a non-threatening and very enjoyable way. Having industry and business volunteers teach the tracks with no

tests, no course books, etc. tends to engage the students and they feel that they can ask any question and get an answer from someone actually working in the field. The setting should always be non-threatening so that students who might never register for the normal scholastic, IT courses will be encouraged to take a look at the field.

In addition to the tracks taught at the high school, "College Days" on the CPCC campus are being run. Club members can attend a session on the College campus, tour the facilities, and meet the division faculty who will be their instructors, advisors, and mentors if they chose to come to the College. Students are given tours of the campus, and if desired, assistance can be received for enrollment and financial aid. The College Days need to be fun and meaningful for the attendees. Parents and high school instructors are invited to attend if they desire.

STRATEGY:	**Develop college courses that can be delivered on site at the high school(s) to introduce the students to college-level courses and instruction.**
DESCRIPTION:	College level courses can be introduced to high school students in server different ways. College experience classes can be set up to teach a cohort of students from one or more high schools on the college campus. Dual enrollment courses are often taught on the high school campus. In both cases the students receive college credit for the courses. In the case of dual enrollment, the student also receives high school credit. One of the main objectives is to expose high school student to college course work. CPCC uses both types of courses. If the first course or two is done at the high school, then the students feel more at ease and are more likely to sign up for the courses than if they have to leave campus. Once the courses are experienced and assuming that there have been good experiences with the material and the instructor, the students are more likely to sign up for additional courses at the college and to eventually register a program of study at the college. It is very important to choose the proper course instructors and the proper courses for these critical classes. CPCC is actively investigating alternative methods of delivery such as virtual classrooms, online delivery, and hybrid courses.