

From the Desk of Dr. Battisti: Lifting Off for Fall 2015

September 8, 2015

As the fall semester begins with the enthusiasm, excitement, and nervousness of the “first days,” I wanted to take a few moments to reflect on yet, another beginning. For the staff and faculty it is one more semester full of assignments, deadlines, exams and many other tasks and activities. For our students it is a new beginning or continuation toward a dream. One student who I met this week shared how she had saved and planned for her first day of college for the past two years. She was so excited to finally begin her college journey at SUNY Broome.

Being educators, we consistently have the opportunity to be the educator we always wanted in our lives. Our profession, among many things, is one of teaching, scholarship, challenge, encouragement and reflection. This year’s theme, “Student Success” requires that in every way, we seek to provide the best service to our students, including clear paths so that they may achieve their goals. It is interesting to me that when I meet alumni, they often want to share a story about the integral person at SUNY Broome who assisted them during their time here. All of us have the opportunity to impact the students who we serve.

As outlined during the Fall 2015 Faculty-Staff Assembly, the two objectives for this Academic Year are:

- To enhance the effectiveness of our teaching and learning environments
- To enhance the delivery and effectiveness of our student success offerings

To assist in reaching these objectives that college will be developing and offering a number of new and enhanced initiatives. Some of these include: Starfish, COIL offerings, new Student Success Center, Lift-Off, Diversity and Inclusion Programming, continued Imagine Success initiatives and many academic and student affairs activities throughout the year.

As SUNY Broome’s 18 month Imagine Success initiative moves into month seven, early data show progress. The goal for Imagine Success is to raise the graduation rate of the college by five points over an 18 month period. The data for this past year will be finalized and shared with the campus this fall.

This fall we are offering a program to the campus in the hopes of getting our students connected and inspired early in the semester. Please remind and encourage students to attend the Lift-Off 2015, which will include student service providers, student activities and clubs, and a formal presentation featuring Lea Webb (alumna), tips from fellow students, and more.

Lift-Off 2015

Thursday, 9/10/15 from 10:00-1:00 in Baldwin Gym

Presentation at 11:00-11:50

I look forward to working with all of you throughout this academic year as we continue to serve our students and work toward the Imagine Success goal. Thank you for your support and assistance, which is so critical to achieving our goals and implementing the college's mission.

Have a great semester,

Francis

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