

## Roadmap for Change

How do we plan for change? Whether it's a change in our community's demographics, an economic downturn, an increased demand for skilled workers, or a disruptive technology (think: smart phones and tablets), we want our response to change to be proactive, not reactive. And that's exactly LSC-Tomball president Lee Ann Nutt's approach to managing change at her college. President Nutt recently launched an ambitious and aggressive research initiative to study opportunities and challenges facing the college for the purpose of developing a 5-year roadmap for change. As part of the process, Dr. Nutt outlined the following areas of potential growth for the college: scholarships, course offerings, certificates/degrees, students, and cost-cutting strategies.



The 16-week study is a partnership between LSC-Tomball and Analytics & Institutional Reporting (AIR) and is the first of its kind at Lone Star College. The process employs three distinct phases - data gathering, strategic analysis, and road mapping - each designed to expedite the creation of an operational roadmap. The study begins in early April by gathering information from key academic and departmental leaders using a series of questionnaires and in-person structured interviews.

George Makiya, director of Analytics, is leading the effort for AIR and campus IR analyst Trudi White will provide statistical expertise and support throughout the project. Data-gathering will involve the broad engagement of faculty, staff, and administrators across the college. Data gleaned from focus groups, benchmark studies, surveys and other activities will provide AIR with the information it needs to conduct an in-depth analysis of the proposed growth and cost-cutting strategies. AIR will then develop scenarios for the realization of the college's strategies for the project's Steering Committee to consider.

The final phase focuses on the development of a 5-year operational roadmap, complete with timeline and deliverables, estimated costs, risk mitigation strategies, and key business and financial benefits. If all goes well (and it will!), the project should be completed by mid-to-late July. Watch for periodic updates over the next few months. For more information, contact George Makiya or Trudi White.

## Making Connections, One Student at a Time

When you work in higher education, it doesn't take long to realize what years' of research confirm: students do better when they feel a sense of connection to the college. Whether this connection is to an advisor, a favorite instructor, a study group of their peers, or participation in college events, engaged students are more likely to do well in class and achieve their academic goals than those who are not. LSC-Montgomery is helping its first time in college students develop these connections through its "Maverick First Year Experience (FYE)."



Two of the goals of Maverick FYE are to increase completion and achievement of all FTIC students and to increase their awareness and participation in college events, activities and organizations. And that's where AIR comes in. Senior AIR analyst Jae Jung is helping decision-makers track student participation in campus events in order to better understand their levels of engagement and unique needs. The data led to a renewed focus on improving the success of evening students by scheduling and promoting more evening campus activities and adjusting the times and days of the sections offered.

As professor Heidi Smith, chair of the Education department, explains, "Looking at and discussing the data with Jae before the beginning of the next semester is key to being able to improve the first year experience for students on our campus. Our goal is to make the Maverick First Year Experience better for students each semesters."

# Predicting Student Success & Persistence

In February's issue, we informed readers of our partnership with Civitas Learning, a predictive analytics Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) provider that focuses solely on higher education. Civitas offers a number of applications to its partners including these four platforms: Illume, Inspire-Faculty, Inspire-Advisors and Hoot.me.

Lone Star College is in the process of deploying Illume with plans to implement the other services in the future. Illume analyzes course success, persistence and graduation data to identify predictors of student success and risk using predictive models custom-built for the institution.

Over the past three months, AIR and Civitas worked together to populate Illume with LSC data to build and validate these predictive models. Our next step is to put Illume in the hands of key academic and student success leaders so they can begin exploring answers to questions like "Which students are most likely to succeed at Lone Star?" and "Which students are at the highest risk of withdrawing?"

The first group of leaders to use Illume will be trained in late April/early May and they will develop the framework for expanding it to other decision-makers going forward. This is an exciting new direction for the college and we'll be reporting our progress in future newsletter articles.



## Daily Enrollment Report in myLonestar!

The Daily Enrollment report is now available in myLonestar every morning at 8 a.m.

This change is part of AIR's ongoing effort to improve service by streamlining access to commonly-used reports in one, easy-to-use location.

Stay tuned for more process improvements coming to you soon from AIR!

The image is a small thumbnail of a data table titled 'Daily Enrollment Report'. It contains columns for 'Official Day', 'Current Day', 'Number of Students', and 'Percentage of Students'. The table lists data for various dates and categories, including 'All Students' and 'Students with Financial Aid'.

## How do I make a data request? It's easy!

Simply email us at [SO-AIR@lonestar.edu](mailto:SO-AIR@lonestar.edu). Also, all AIR team members have a service request link in their email signature to make it easy to request data. Just click the link and fill out the form. We're looking forward to supporting you!

### What happens to my request?



Need data? Email AIR at [SO-AIR@lonestar.edu](mailto:SO-AIR@lonestar.edu).