

SPRING 2021 - SUMMER 2022

# TITLE III NEWS

STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE NEW STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

*in this issue*

Summer Bridge Program: "Pirate Prep" Launched  
CVCC receives continuation of Title III Funds  
Partnership with Tutor.com  
Early Alert for Student Success  
Career Services Center Soft Opening

## FALL 2020

Chattahoochee Valley Community College was awarded a 5-year, \$1.8 million Title III, Part A Strengthening Institutions Program grant from the U.S. Department of Education with a focus on student service initiatives, enhancement of instructional technologies, and faculty engagement. Improvements to these areas will support CVCC in providing students with engaging, interactive learning experiences and academic support. The funds are provided to improve and strengthen the institution's academic quality, institutional management, fiscal stability, and student service outcomes.

## WHAT IS TITLE III?

The purpose of the Title III, Part A Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) is to provide grants to eligible institutions of higher education to improve their academic programs, institutional management, and fiscal stability in order to increase their self-sufficiency and strengthen their capacity to make a substantial contribution to the higher education resources of the Nation. (34 CFR 607.1)

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Chattahoochee Valley Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate degrees. Questions about the accreditation of Chattahoochee Valley Community College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Shannon Feagins- SENSE Success Coach; Sheinoura Wise- Advising Coordinator; and Jamekia Richardson- Student Development Specialist completed the Certified Advisor I Training in June 2022.

Staff learned leadership and citizenship skills along with strategies to engage with the campus. They discovered ways to improve student government organization through new trends, discussions, and tactics. In addition, the staff members networked and connected with peers from across the country to exchange ideas.



# MEET THE TITLE III TEAM



Dr. Sherri Taylor  
Dean of Students and Campus Services  
Title III Project Director



Mrs. Alisha Miles  
Project Coordinator



Mrs. Shanisty Johnson  
Student Success/Career Coordinator



Ms. Latasha Wiley  
SENSE Success Coach



Mrs. Shannon Feagins  
SENSE Success Coach



Mr. Brandon Bluiie  
SENSE Success Coach/Retention Specialist

# PROJECT SENSE

## Strategies to Enhance New Student Engagement The College's Title III Initiative

A transformative experience requires both a superior academic program and an engaging student services to support and enhance learning.

### Therefore, we developed a 3-Part Comprehensive Plan for Student Success:

1

Expand and enhance academic programs to meet the needs of underprepared students to promote enrollment, retention, completion and transfer;

- Summer Bridge Program
- First Year Experience
- English and Math Readiness
- Student Success Workshops

2

Expand and enhance student services to engage students and increase retention and persistence;

- Early Alert & Intervention
- Onboarding Surveys
- Expanded Tutorial Services
- New Career Center

3

Expand professional development to support enhancements to student services and reinforce active engagement of faculty and staff;

- Academic Mindset, Student Engagement, and Career Awareness Training
- Best Practices in Classroom Engagement

CVCC will enhance the lives of its students, faculty, staff, and the community:

Promoting instructional excellence in all program areas;

Expanding and enhancing programs to meet the needs of the area's workforce;

Strengthening partnerships to advance the mission of the College;

Creating a supportive teaching and learning environment;

Integrating technology to support all programs and services;

Implementing the use of evidence-based decision-making;

Providing exceptional student support services.

We promise to service students throughout the lifecycle of their college experience from admission to graduation and beyond.

We will invite and support a level of engagement that assures our students a college experience that encourages, empowers, and employs an opportunity to live prosperous lives.



## CREATING THE SENSE SUITE

Transforming a computer lab and an unoccupied classroom into a welcoming learning environment for students was a strategic process to ensure that students were the priority.

The first initiative was to create a place for success coaching and a Career Center.



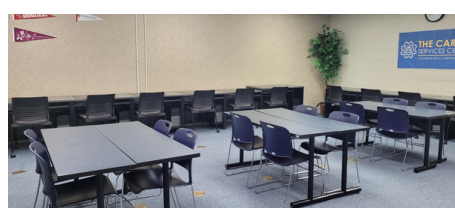
## AFTER



An unoccupied classroom was transformed into the Career Center and Study Hall Area.



## AFTER





# PIRATE PREP SETS SAIL

In Summer 2021, CVCC offered a 10-day summer college prep program, Pirate Prep, to help students navigate through the process of determining the best path for them as they journey from a high school to a college environment.

Pirate Prep is aimed at introducing the college experience through the development of academic and personal skills.

Participants experienced informative, yet engaging and

fun sessions that promoted student and personal growth. Students received assistance through advising and registration support, free school supplies, and a dedicated success coach.



**“ WHETHER THEY DECIDE TO TRANSFER TO A FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION OR SEEK EMPLOYMENT AFTER COMPLETING A PROGRAM AT CVCC, OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE SURE THEY HAVE THE TOOLS NEEDED TO BE A POSITIVE, CONFIDENT, AND WELL-EQUIPPED STUDENT IN THE MEANTIME. ”**

~Alisha Miles,  
Title III Project Coordinator

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Pirate PREP is a summer bridge program designed to assist students in their transition from high school to college environment. The goal is to enhance the first-year student experience by increasing their college readiness prior to the start of classes.

Students who successfully complete this program successfully will be able to:

- Identify positive and negative behaviors which can affect their academic performance and collegiate experience;
- Demonstrate emotional intelligence by using various internal strategies (i.e. managing stress, happiness, test anxiety; decision-making; reflection);
- Navigate the CVCC campus and campus resources (i.e. the bookstore, Learning Resource Center, Tutoring Center and online academic support).
- Recall basic information about the collegiate experience, expectations, and processes (i.e.; registration, enrollment, academic integrity);





## CAREER SERVICES CENTER SOFT OPENING

A "soft" grand opening for the new Campus Career Services Center occurred September 2021. With the support of Success Coaches, students will be able to utilize the Career Services Center and its resources to assist them in their decision-making process.

The range of assistance goes from deciding on a career to conducting assessments to determine how values, personality, and interests can help determine if the chosen career is suitable.

Our Career Services Center offers a variety of services to help students reach their career goals. Career Services conducts workshops to equip current students and recent graduates with tools and resources that can connect their academic and career paths. Career Services offers:

- Building resumes and writing cover letters
- Applying for jobs and, if applicable, continuing education at a 4-year institution
- Preparation for interviews
- Recruiting- where employers are invited to visit campus to recruit students who are about to graduate
- Providing opportunities for Internships and networking
- Access to career services resources are available at <https://www.cv.edu/student-resources/career-services-center/>.

## CVCC PURCHASES HANDSHAKE



**The #1 Way to Find jobs** | Handshake was purchased in June 2021 to complement the services offered in the career center to prepare students for meaningful careers in various fields. Handshake's mission is to democratize access to opportunities to help every student find the right job, no matter where they're from or who they know. It is an online platform specifically designated to help students find their futures. Through Title III funding, the College is able to offer students access to jobs, internships, and co-op opportunities at their fingertips.





## SUCCESS COACHING

### THE KEY TO STUDENT RETENTION

The SENSE program provides success coaches responsible for ensuring students receive persistent, proactive, individualized mentoring, academic coaching, and support throughout their time at the College.

"We believe in working with students to help them identify and expand upon their strengths while empowering them to succeed. During coaching sessions, we listen to students and learn about their CVCC experience; help them identify obstacles that may be barriers to their success, and help identify solutions."

Success Coaching is available to all students enrolled at the College. Students can access a success coach by completing an online form at <https://www.cv.edu/student-resources/sense-title-iii/>.

## CVCC RECEIVES CONTINUATION OF TITLE III FUNDS

On September 16, 2021, CVCC received notification of continuation of funds to carry on the work of meeting students where they are; enhancing their campus engagement and learning experiences.



### REINFORCING ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF FACULTY AND STAFF

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

### STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES, EARLY ALERT, AND ADVISING

As one of the primary objectives of the Title III grant, reinforcing the engagement of faculty and staff in the student success paradigm is critical to growth and development.

Since implementing the grant, the SENSE program has been able to engage with full-time faculty and staff through three professional development events:

- At the 2021 Student Services staff retreat of approximately 35 participants, the SENSE program provided guidance and training on student support services as it relates to tutoring, success coaching, and the early alert process.
- Through SENSE professional development opportunity, a student engagement workshop was presented to full-time and adjunct faculty. The workshop included topics on best practices for instruction, connecting coursework to careers, and understanding the CVCC student population. Eighteen full-time faculty and staff participated in the workshop. Ideas for future workshops on active learning, fostering academic mindset, experiential learning theory and/or course redesign were presented.
- During CVCC's annual college professional development training, the SENSE program presented a workshop on "Impromptu Advising: Juggling Multiple Roles and Student Engagement." Faculty and staff were introduced to different methods of advising and increasing student engagement.



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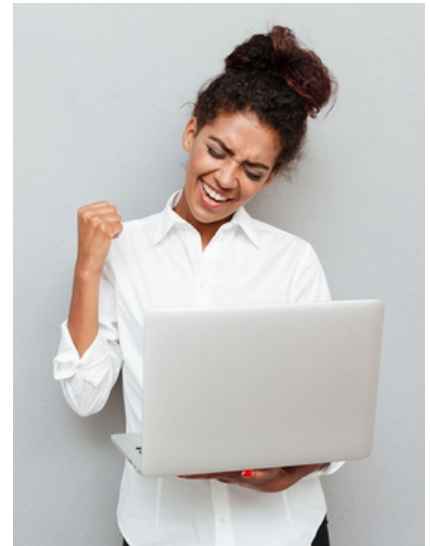
## COURSE EARLY ALERT FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

The goal of the early alert program is to increase retention, persistence, and success. It was implemented to identify students who may be at risk of academic difficulty or failure as early as possible.

Faculty are able to see firsthand when students are experiencing barriers to success or showing signs that they may need additional support. Observing these behaviors and intervening in a timely and meaningful way are critical to helping students overcome obstacles. Faculty are critical to the success of this program because they establish the connection between the students and the resources available to help them succeed.

Faculty and staff are not expected to provide personal counseling to students. Instead, they play an important role in encouraging students to use campus resources such as success coaches, ADA, the Learning Resource Center, tutoring services, and others.

Faculty are encouraged to make an Early Alert referral as soon as signs of barriers to success appear. To learn more about the early alert process, students may reach out to any SENSE staff member.



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## COLLEGE STUDENT INVENTORIES WITH RUFFALO NOEL LEVITZ

The Ruffalo Noel Levitz College Student Inventory (CSI) identifies at-risk students in the incoming class using the leading noncognitive indicators of college student success. The SENSE Program receives detailed information about each student's academic motivations, areas of risk, and receptivity to specific student services. This survey is administered before classes get under way or soon after classes begin in the Orientation course in order to provide data to make interventions more meaningful and relevant before a student begins disengaging. The CSI helps the team:

- identify which students are at risk and receptive to assistance;
- intervene with students earlier, when the chance for success is greater;
- make retention strategies more effective and efficient by basing them on reliable student data.

Used by more than 1,400 institutions and completed by more than 2.6 million students nationwide, the College Student Inventory is the leading tool for early identification and early intervention with our newest students.

Source: <https://www.ruffalonl.com/enrollment-management-solutions/student-success/rnl-retention-management-system-plus/college-student-inventory/>



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## CVCC PARTNERS WITH TUTOR.COM

Tutor.com offers one-to-one learning solutions for students through educational institutions such as colleges, universities, K-12 schools, and public and state libraries as well as through corporations.

CVCC purchased Tutor.com so that every student has access to support services for their courses. Tutor.com is available to all students here at CVCC through Blackboard. Tutor.com is also open 24 hours in any subject.



# ENHANCE YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE WITH THE SENSE PROGRAM

ENGAGING,  
ENCOURAGING, AND  
EMPOWERING

*Our Pirates*  
FOR SUCCESS!

SENSE@CV.EDU  
334-214-4833

The SENSE Program (Strategies to Enhance New Student Engagement) is an enhanced student experience.

Funded by the Title III Strengthening Institutions Program of the U. S. Department of Education, the initiatives encourage a partnership between the student, CVCC faculty, and staff community.

Focusing on specific strategies to engage students in their academic, personal, and professional pursuits. Our desire is for all students to have a successful finish at CVCC regardless of how they start.

The program provides success coaches who are responsible for ensuring students receive persistent, proactive, individualized mentoring, academic coaching, and support throughout their time at CVCC. Our main goal is working with students to help them identify and expand upon their strengths while empowering them to succeed at CVCC and accomplish their college and professional goals.

## OUR SERVICES

CONNECT



**FIRST YEAR SUPPORT:** High School to College Summer Bridge Programs, Advising, Financial Literacy Basics, College Success Strategies, and Workshops

LEARN



**SUCCESS COACHING:** Early Intervention, Program of Study Exploration, Academic Support and Referrals, and Mentoring

GRADUATE



**CAREER SERVICES CENTER:** Career Exploration and Planning, Interest Inventories, Transfer Advising, Resume Writing, and Interviewing Skills