Grant strengthens Sac State’s student retention campaign

Sacramento State’s Student Academic Success and Educational Equity Programs (SASEEP) are committed to helping underrepresented students achieve their goal of earning a college degree.

Central to that commitment is guiding and retaining these students. That is why Marcellene L. Watson-Derbigny, who oversees Sac State’s student retention and academic success, is so excited about a new $250,000 grant from the California State University Chancellor’s Office.

The Dedicated to Educating, Graduating, and Retaining Educational Equity Students (DEGREES) project dovetails with the CSU’s Graduation Initiative by providing enhanced services to accelerate and coordinate the campus campaign to help students succeed.

To mobilize that campaign, best practices will be modeled from SASEEP such as the College Assistance Migrant Program, the Educational Opportunity Program, the Faculty Student Mentor Program, the Full Circle Project, the Peer and Academic Resource Center, and the college-based educational equity programs.

“The grant award represents a key opportunity for the University to build upon its successful retention programs and to provide more services to an increasing number of students,” says Watson-Derbigny. “This will enable more students to achieve their goals through augmented services and newly emerging support mechanisms.”

These include academic advising beyond the first year of college, peer and faculty advising, tutoring, mentorship, supplemental instruction, disability testing,
transfer learning communities, first generation and educational opportunity program expansion and other interventions for educational equity student groups.

Viridiana Diaz, director of the College Assistance Migrant Program and co-principal investigator for the grant, adds that “the funding will improve access and retention efforts for underrepresented students, while helping them to be successful scholars at Sacramento State and give back to their communities.”

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

– Alan Miller
amiller@csus.edu

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