

**GOAL 1:**

**PROVIDE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO HELP STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR EDUCATION AND CAREER GOALS.**

**Strategies:**

- 1a. Develop a focused strategic enrollment management plan.
  - Established a Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) committee to develop a SEM plan.
  - Streamlined and revamped Adult Ed registration process resulting in improved accuracy in student placement.
  - Began Spring 2014 registration two weeks earlier to encourage early enrollment.
  - Developed targeted enrollment queries and contacted students via phone, direct mail and email to increase enrollment.
  
- 1b. Evaluate the first-year student experience, including the developmental education program, and implement changes to increase persistence and completion.
  - Launched First Year Experience (FYE) Program by identifying staff and office space.
  - Implemented Retention Alert software and completed initial pilot.
  - Developed online New Student Orientation.
  - Created a new advising position dedicated to CTE student recruitment, enrollment, advising, placement and retention.
  
- 1c. Create clear education and career pathways to help students achieve their goals.
  - Established the Student Career Development Center and relocated career services to the ATOC where related services are also offered.
  
- 1d. Explore, develop and expand programs that respond to community, business, and industry needs, while keeping in mind the importance of sustainability and a global perspective.
  - Developed new AAS degrees in 1) Accounting and Business Management, and 2) Industrial Mechanic, and a new Certificate in Entrepreneurship.
  - Eliminated course stacking in Welding and HVACR to create discreet courses.
  - Expanded non-credit manufacturing program and created a bridge to manufacturing pathway.
  - Reorganized Transportation Warehousing & Logistics (TWL) leadership.
  - Created new courses for the adult literacy learner with a 4.0 or lower grade level.
  
- 1e. Promote high academic standards by adopting best practices and improving the rigor of program review and assessment of student learning.
  - Launched mapping of College-wide Learning Outcomes and completed mapping of Information Literacy.
  
- 1f. Create additional student-centered support programs to improve retention and completion.
  - Conducted workshops to help nursing program applicants prepare for the nursing admissions assessment test (HESI), which resulted in higher HESI admission scores.
  - Expanded Male Success Initiative to include a mentoring component.
  - Introduced a comprehensive Adult Ed student support system that includes setting personal and educational goals; system improved post-testing.
  - Implemented supplemental instruction for nursing students with \$40,000 funds awarded by IBHE.
  
- 1g. Expand efforts to ensure seamless program-level articulation.
  - Modified Industrial Technology curriculum to create three-credit-hour courses that articulate with transfer programs.

1h. Incorporate innovative technology that can enrich teaching and learning and improve technology support for students.

- Improved Wireless access for the Mobile Math lab.

1i. Develop new ways to engage and communicate with students.

- Developed videos to showcase career-tech opportunities in HVAC, Welding, and Industrial Mechanic.

**GOAL 2:**

**SECURE NEW FUNDING SOURCES WHILE EFFECTIVELY MANAGING AND ALLOCATING CURRENT FISCAL, PHYSICAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES TO ALIGN WITH STRATEGIC GOALS.**

Strategies:

2a. Secure new sources of funding.

- Secured funds to renovate the tennis courts and soccer fields.
- Secured an additional \$20,000 federal grant to expand the manufacturing non-credit bridge pathway to post-secondary study.
- Signed contracts with 42 new clients in the Conference Center.
- Hired a Manager of Grant Services to research, coordinate, and monitor grants college-wide.
- Secured \$274,000 to take the lead in developing and managing Construction Business Development Centers that help disadvantaged businesses qualify to bid on government construction projects. Total amount of \$579,000 is shared between four colleges and can be renewed annually for 12 years. Funded by ICCB via the Illinois Tollway Authority.
- Joined a network of 21 community colleges awarded a TAACCCT grant, which secured \$525,000, over three years, for PSC to develop an advanced manufacturing program; \$215,000 in equipment was purchased on site for our manufacturing labs.
- Signed new telecommunications service contracts with AT&T, saving \$10,000 per month.
- Implemented State Comptroller's IDROP (Collection) program to improve College collections.

2c. Build the institutional capacity for evidence-based decision-making by strengthening data collection, analysis, and reporting systems.

- Conducted CCSSE survey to support data-driven decision-making.
- Hired a Data Analyst to meet growing demand for data.

2d. Integrate the values of sustainability into daily operations.

- Involved more than 300 students, faculty, staff and community in sustainability events, including: The Path to Sustainable Change and Leadership Training; Campus Sustainability Day; South Metro Higher Education Consortium's Student Sustainability Summit and Bard Center for Environmental Policy's C2C Fellows Program; The Sustainability Center's Green Speakers Series; A Series of Energy Demand Reduction Trainings; Illinois Green Economy Network's Electric Vehicle Road Trip Stop at PSC.

2e. Develop strategies to recruit, hire, train, and retain highly qualified faculty and staff.

- Developed a formal hiring process for part-time staff and instructors in non-credit.
- Piloted faculty mentoring program for adjunct clinical nursing faculty.

2g. Review workload and staffing levels and define service standards for everyone providing services directly to students.

- Reorganized the Business Office to improve services to students and staff.
- Signed Higher One contract to provide outsourced financial aid/refund disbursement functions.
- Conducted customer service training for staff in the Business Office: cross-trained staff to ensure continuity of business/finance operations.

2h. Develop strategies to improve communication and collaboration across departments and divisions.

- Developed new Student Petition Waivers process to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Launched development of a new grant recording/compliance/reporting/archiving process in cooperation with the Grant Officer.

2i. Implement improvements in the technology infrastructure, software, and training that would make College operations more efficient.

- Implemented Instant Enrollment for non-credit courses which increased use of online registration by 50%.
- Installed and repositioned routers throughout the Conference Center to improve speed and reliability of WIFI system.
- Implemented enhancement to Web Advisor for attendance verification.
- Expanded use of virtualization at the server and desktop levels.

2j. Enhance facility management through better space utilization, improvements, and capital planning.

- Centralized online posting of internal and external College wide events.
- Completed building envelope project and concrete/sidewalk repairs.
- Developed plans to improve exterior signage on the Main Campus.
- Renovated science lab safety shower.
- Upgraded select classroom/office furniture.
- Completed TWL HVAC replacement.
- Installed LED exterior lighting for the K Building.

**GOAL 3:**  
**CULTIVATE NEW AND EXPAND EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS.**

Strategies:

3a. Cultivate new and expand existing partnerships with educational institutions, business and industry, and alumni.

- Hosted two Business After Hours events to cultivate and strengthen relationships with the business community.
- Partnered with several community organizations using the Conference Center, including South/Southwest Suburban United Way, AT&T, South Suburban Math Bowl, and Prairie-Hills Elementary District 144.
- Partnered with the Professional Young Women’s Network (PYWN) to host a “Reality Fair” for 125 high school students.
- Partnered with the South Suburban Community Development Corporation to train 60 individuals in the building trades and entrepreneurship, using funds awarded by Chase Bank and Cook County Justice Advisory Council.

3b. Collaborate with partners in support of academic program development and training, resource development, student internships and job placement.

- Awarded \$20,000 grant from ArcelorMittal for Industrial Technology curriculum development.
- Established South Suburban Hospital as a new surgical site in the clinical rotation for sophomore nursing students.
- Awarded \$15,000 grant from Fabricators and Manufacturing (FAM) for high school summer camp to promote industrial technology and manufacturing in secondary schools
- Awarded \$5,000 grant to promote HVACR training to non-English speaking, non-traditional students.
- Partnered with Enbridge to provide scholarships and summer camps.

- Increased the number of companies who purchased corporate training programs by 42%; increased the number of workshops provided by 54%.
- Partnered with the Center for Legal Studies in Colorado to provide online certificate training programs through the Community and Economic Development division.

3d. Engage local citizens, alumni, businesses and educational partners to increase community awareness of Prairie State's strong academic programs and services.

- Partnered with local high schools, the Little Free Library Book Exchange, Altrusa, Chicago Housing Authority and John Gavin Foundation to promote literacy.
- Increased community involvement through hosting Stroll and Roll event with South Star Services.
- Provided workforce development services to 28 new residents of Cook County, with 24 enrolling in WIA-certified training programs.
- Served 50+ certified WIA customers, with 36 obtaining industry credentials and 26 obtaining full-time unsubsidized employment with an average hourly wage of \$19.55.
- Maintained a Resource Room with open availability for Cook County residents for job search and career exploration. Of the 2,923 residents that used the Illinois workNet Center, 2,876 utilized the services offered in the Resource Room.

PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE  
202 S. HALSTED ST.  
CHICAGO HEIGHTS, IL 60411  
(708) 709-3500  
PRAIRIESTATE.EDU