

A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:

Establish a Culture that Values Graduation with an Associate's Degree

B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:

Increase the number of students applying for and receiving associates degrees.

C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:

Supporting Institutional Operations

D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:

The Strategic Planning Process for the Colorado Community College System has developed three key criteria to measure college performance. Improving graduation rates is one of these criteria.

E. List the organizational areas - -institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units -- most affected by or involved in this Action Project:

The Student Services division specifically the area under the responsibility of the Registrar is most involved in the current processes of auditing graduation requests and coordinating with instructional administration to determine if a student has met the degree requirements necessary for graduation.

F. Name and describe briefly the key organizational process(es) that you expect this Action Project to change

Students will receive more directed communication to the value of applying for and receiving an associate's degree before transferring from Red Rocks Community College at several junctures when attending Red Rocks. Those junctures include new student orientation, advising, and upon earning 45 credit hours. As new articulation and transfer agreements are negotiated with universities faculty and administrators will be cognizant in encouraging the transfer of degrees not just credits.

G. Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion):

Efforts already underway include notifying students that have earned 45 credits by mail of the advantages of receiving an associate's degree and alerting the students to the simple process involved in applying for a degree before transferring from Red Rocks Community College. Students return by mail or on line a degree audit request. A general advisor makes personal contact with each student requesting a degree audit.

The advisor helps the student complete the process and follows up with each student to track actual numbers of students persisting to graduation.

H. Describe how you plan to monitor how successfully your efforts on this Action Project are progressing:

Baseline numbers of graduates will be compared to numbers of graduates as a result of the planned interventions.

I. Describe the overall "outcome" measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals:

A baseline will be established to determine the number of students with 45+ credits that are actually applying for and receiving degrees. These data will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the mail contact and follow up by the general advisors to degree audit requests.

J. Other information (e.g., publicity, sponsor or champion, etc.):

The Student Activities department developed posters and has posted notices to the student website encouraging students to apply for the associate's degree.

Key Leader
Marilyn Smith
English Faculty
303-914-6439
Marilyn.smith@rcc.edu