The second annual Central Florida Regional Curriculum Alignment Conference was held on October 28 where over 90 K-12, community and state college, and UCF educators and academic leaders convened to address effective educational pathways for students in STEM disciplines. Dr. Sandy Shugart opened the day long conference with a history of higher education, inspiring attendees to liken their work to that of architects in that they are the designers of pedagogy and curriculum. Shugart posited that the most important issue is one of what our students are experiencing in the classroom.

His remarks provided the perfect canvas for a day of reflection, goal setting and action plans related to curriculum alignment in STEM disciplines. Joining Math, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology this year was Computer Programming. Beyond the notable accomplishments of the past year compiled in a compendium report, attendees used this as a benchmark to establish new goals and action plans for the upcoming year as outlined below.

Attendees received the annual compendium report for Curriculum Alignment along with a mid-day report of work accomplished in the morning; a copy of Peer Review, a publication of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, an issue exclusively highlighting the current trends and best practices in STEM education; and a user’s guide on adding resources and events to the Curriculum Alignment web site.

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**Goals for Curriculum Alignment**

**from the 2nd Annual Curriculum Alignment Conference**

**October 28, 2011**

**PROGRAMMING**

- Establish a contact for every high school that teaches AP Computer Science or Business Computer Programming
- Expand CC/SC collaboration of AS CP&A programs for program and course alignment
- Continue with the current course alignment analysis
- Identify Web programming opportunities for alignment
- Align COP 1000+2220 to COP3223 & COP 2800+2805 to COP3330

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**A message from the interim vice provost - Joyce Dorner**

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I’m reminded of how thankful I am to be a part of the amazing Regional Campuses team which affords me the opportunity to work with you and your campuses. Thanks to all of you for your continuous and tireless efforts to make our campuses the best they can be. I hope each of you will have a wonderful Thanksgiving, with special time for family and friends.
Goals for Curriculum Alignment

BIOLOGY
- Enlist college faculty on the committee to read the NGSSS for HS Bio and relay to their departments
- Improve students’ general college success skills (knowing how to access and use information/follow instructions) both in HS and at colleges
- Improve biology lab skills for entering freshman
- Collaborate between colleges and K-12 to model rigorous, standards-based labs (look into having college students/faculty get approved as volunteers to come to schools)

PHYSICS
- Develop the curriculum and pedagogy to encourage all students to take some level of physics before they graduate from high school
- Establish and maintain clear communication between K-12, colleges, universities and FDOE in terms of vertical and horizontal articulation (everyone knows what is going on)
- Empower/enable teachers to have the knowledge and skills to be able to develop curriculum and make decisions on classroom-based instruction. Are informed decision-makers included in the development of the curriculum? (chefs, not cooks)
- Develop vertical alignment of physics concepts across the curriculum from elementary to post graduate education (everything is linked)
- Encourage informal science learning via competitions (Science Olympiad, Physics Olympics, JETS), out of school learning, science centers, science nights, and other fun, engaging activities that promote lifelong learning

CHEMISTRY
- Assess college readiness
- Design a remediation plan for at risk college students
- Align chemistry-math skills
- Maintain a supportive communication
- Evaluate students’ transition experience

MATH
- Continue and initiate more dialogue among elementary schools, middle schools, high school and college-level environments with involvement of DOE and workforce
- Provide constant communication of course descriptions and ongoing assessments between levels to include discussions regarding Common Core standards and assessments
- Discuss and align placement process from secondary to post-secondary (6-20)
- Continue to consistently align the concepts taught and tools and technologies (pedagogical vs. instruction) used in the K-20 levels, modifying instruction to achieve desired learning outcomes
- Begin discussions on assessments and grading practices at all levels

FUN FACT: Did you know that UCF is hosting the National Science Olympiad Competition in May 2012?
This past fall has been one of the busiest in history. Across the region, we have been working with our partners on new and expanding programs as follows: a new concurrent nursing program at Leesburg with Lake Sumter Community College; significant increases in program capacity with Seminole State at the Altamonte campus; recruitment of a new faculty member for Architecture at UCF Valencia West with the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH); and a major recruiting effort with Valencia-Osceola and Humanities (CAH); and a major faculty member for Architecture at UCF Altamonte campus; recruitment of a new capacity with Seminole State at the College; significant increases in program enrollment as well as raised awareness in the community.

Working with Orange and Volusia County schools, we have been able to provide exclusive course offerings to their students and teachers. Discussions are underway to provide review courses for the Florida Teacher’s Certification Exam (FTCE) in Orange County, and Volusia County has expressed interest in UCF Test Prep being the sole provider of SAT and ACT courses to all its high schools. Regional Campuses has partnered with Daytona State and Stetson University to accommodate the program. For more information, go to www.testprep.ucf.edu.

UCF Test Prep implemented QR (quick response) codes into their promotional and advertising campaigns as a way to keep up with current marketing and technology trends. The newly-designed UCF Test Prep logo and QR code are highly visible on the bright yellow van and bus shelters seen about campus. The result has been an increase in course enrollment as well as raised awareness in the community.

Academic Advising

With the Fall term nearly over, we are getting ready for the Spring term across the regions: orientations, pre-advising, classroom visits, special events, etc. We are still working on a new DirectConnect Advisor for Brevard and a new Transfer Advisor for Daytona. Seminole welcomes Sarah Zoll, DirectConnect Advisor, who started November 11, and we welcome back Beth Larson following the birth of her baby girl, Alice.

On November 18, the UCF/Valencia group hosted the Academic Enhancement program for UCF advisors, followed by Orlando campus advisors who will present information and answer questions for VCC students.

UCF Web Enrollment Guide is available on the Registrar’s Office web site at www.registrar.ucf.edu and contains a complete guide on how to search, select, and enroll in UCF courses.

UCF Test Prep

Expert. Local. Affordable.

UCF’s Division of Continuing Education has been providing test preparation services to our university student base and the greater Orlando community since 1998. Starting with only two review courses, UCF Test Prep has grown to now offer 17 different review subject areas throughout the Central Florida area. The courses available range from college entrance exams like the SAT and ACT to graduate and professional exams like the GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT, & FTCE. Within the last year services have expanded to include many online review courses. To answer the demand for these courses, schedules have been created to accommodate offerings at multiple Regional Campus locations, providing day/evening as well as weekend options and giving students wide variety and flexibility in meeting their needs.

UCF Test Prep

How are we doing so far? Of the 10,300 students who earned baccalaureate degrees in 2010-2011, 34% transferred from a DirectConnect community college. What’s next? We hope to develop new markets; increase enrollments, especially at the master’s level; and relieve some of the congestion on the Orlando campus. What will it take? Creativity...Cooperation...Collaboration...Community...Consortium. UCF has all five C’s which adds up to one big A+.
Faculty and Staff

In November, Sue Mahan (CJ) will travel to Barranquilla, Columbia, to attend Internet Association of Volunteers-International Summit. She will also present on a panel for Partners of the Americas-International Convention in Medellin, Columbia.

Bernardo Ramirez was host for an information session for the Health Management and Informatics program.

Deborah De Chiara (N) walked with the Florida Hospital “Cancer Care Crusaders” for the American Cancer Society (ACS) “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” event.

The Be Ur Best U series of self-improvement workshops and activities continues to offer opportunities for Daytona students and staff. Activities in September and October included a CPR class, study skills workshop, suicide assessment workshop, State Department employment information session, volunteer activity and diversity training opportunities. Over 101 students, faculty and staff have participated. Upcoming activities include career and study skills workshops, and diversity training.

STUDENTS

The Student Nurses Association (SNA) planned a Chik-Fil-A fundraiser night for which the organization received a portion of the proceeds.

The nursing students will be attending the Florida Student Nurses Association (FSNA) convention at the Hilton Daytona Beach Resort. The theme is “The Power of Nursing: The Art and Science of Caring.”

UCF Daytona Beach has two new Campus Ambassadors: Charlise Stephens, Math Education major, and Eddy Turner, MSW program.
Faculty and Staff

Irene Pons (LS), who is also an attorney, has been recognized in the Orlando Woman Newspaper for her ability to educate students effectively while also representing her clients successfully. Congratulations, Irene!

Ashley Squillante has been hired as SDES Coordinator. Ashley has worked in mental health and as an events coordinator. She will be a wonderful addition to our team.

Pam William and Ric Colon met with students interested in transferring to UCF during Advising Week. Four Express Decision events were held on campus.

Campus News

Jennifer Wright from the Office of Dispute Resolution Services visited our office in September to present a workshop on Building Your Reputation.

On October 4 our campus held a viewing of the U.S. Department of State information session, discussing careers with the State Department and the Foreign Officers Test.

Kallie Reyes and Kia Anderson represented UCF at Seminole State College’s University Quest. UCF Sanford/Lake Mary will also be presenting at Seminole State Oviedo Campus’ Transfer Fair.

Jackie West-Lee and Andrea Velez-Vazquez organized activities for Advising Week, setting up multiple information tables for “speed advising” for all the UCF majors.

Andrea Velez-Vazquez and Kia Anderson attended UCF’s Diversity Breakfast. We also broadcast the breakfast for the rest of our staff via Adobe Connect.

“The Holocaust: A Survivor’s Story” was shown at our campus for all students and staff/faculty.

On Friday, October 7, UCF hosted the 65-member Leadershhip Seminole Class #21 Education Session, a tradition begun several years ago. This day-long event began with an Excellence in Education panel, featuring Dr. Bill Vogel, Superintendent, Seminole County Public School District; Dr. E. Ann McGee, President, Seminole State College; and Dr. Dan Holsenbeck, Vice President for University Relations, who represented Dr. John Hitt. DirectConnect to UCF was a featured aspect of the day’s discussions. The luncheon session provided an overview of functions offered by our regional campuses at Seminole State with Dr. David Mealor, a featured speaker at the Seminole State Leadership Academy, along with Dr. Jim Henningsen, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer at Seminole State. Later in the day, both Dr. Henningsen and Dr. Mealor were assisted by Dr. Bill Vogel in facilitating the Hot Topics group discussion in a wrap-up session.

We will also be participating in Seminole State’s Raider Run on November 6.

STUDENTS

The Office of Pre-Professional Advising visited our campus on October 27, giving presentations on Professional Health fields and Pre-Law.

The Sanford/Lake Mary DirectConnect football game was a success. 200 Game Day tickets were given away.

Alicia, with SGA, handed out tickets to the Lupe Fiasco concert for all UCF students.
South Lake-Ocala-Leesburg

Faculty and Staff

UCF South Lake welcomes two new members to the team—Dottie Howell, part-time Program Assistant and Bryan Wilcoxson, Work Study student majoring in Sport and Exercise Science.

Cyndi Walters invited Barbara Thompson, Office of Diversity Initiatives, to facilitate a workshop for the UCF Leesburg Elementary Education students. The “Inclusive Communication” workshop identified common mistakes people make when communicating about age, class, disabilities, ethnicity, gender, language, looks, race, religion, and sexual orientation.

Roberta Ergle invited staff from the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities to lead a session focused on professional behavior in and out of the classroom. The UCF Ocala Elementary Education program students engaged in discussion about ethical issues surrounding social media and other behavior challenges that prospective teachers may face.

Min Tong, 2011 United Way Campaign coordinator, invited Terri Kracht to give a brief overview of United Way and the campaign at the Western Region’s October staff meeting.

CAMPUS NEWS

Cecelia Rivers was elected to the West Orange Chamber Board of Directors for 2012 and was invited to participate in the Chamber’s 2011-12 Leadership program designed to educate future leaders of West Orange County. She is one of twenty-five members of this year’s class.

In September, UCF Ocala partnered with the UCF Alumni Association to host an “alumni watch party” as UCF took on Memphis. This first-time event was attended by more than fifty alumni, friends and UCF staff.

Christy Pasnisin and Cindy Kirk participated in the College of Central Florida’s College Night program. Tanya Armstrong and Christopher Quintero participated in Lake Sumter’s College Night program.

In October, Cecelia Rivers, Roberta Ergle, Bryan Zugelder, Karri Williams, Cindy Kirk and Tanya Armstrong met with both Marion and Citrus County School Districts for their semi-annual meetings of the UCF/District Educational Advisory Councils. Topics on the agenda included supervising teacher and school selection processes, the co-teaching model; UCF’s pre-planning model, and potential revisions to the UCF Elementary Education program.

UCF South Lake, Leesburg and Ocala staff participated in a workshop entitled, “Understanding Poverty,” facilitated by Barbara Thompson from the Office of Diversity Initiatives.

On October 28, Cecelia Rivers, Jeff Duke, Tanya Armstrong, Thomas Silarek and Christopher Quintero, along with LSCC representatives Ron Brown and Maribel Torres welcomed 51+ students from Gray Middle School’s AVID program to the campus. During their three-hour visit, the students learned more about DirectConnect to UCF, LSCC’s Youth Outreach programs, financial aid; and toured the campus. They enjoyed the mini-teach that Dr. Duke facilitated to let students experience what an actual college class is like. Once of the group’s chaperones was Jimmy Connors, a graduate of the UCF South Lake Sport & Fitness program. Jimmy is now a teacher and coach at the school.

Sheryl Cohn presented several FTCE Workshops for elementary education students at UCF Ocala, UCF Leesburg, and UCF South Lake.

STUDENTS

Dawn Scott and Elizabeth Morse of the S.O.S. (Student Outreach Services) office helped raise awareness about breast cancer during Breast Cancer Awareness month by hosting a “Pink” table at the UCF South Lake campus. They distributed information about cancer prevention and treatment, support services, and answered students’ questions. Everyone who stopped by was treated to pink punch, pink cookies, a pink ribbon and pink candy.

The S.O.S. office also helped generate student participation in the region for UCF’s Give Back Day—“Give to Live!”, on October 15. Students: Brittany Grayson, Asha Raghunauth, Noelle Gleeson, Elizabeth Morse and Dawn Scott spent the entire day at the FAITH Neighborhood Center, a local not-for-profit organization, cleaning and organizing the Center’s Food Pantry. The Center provides support to needy families and individuals throughout South Lake County Florida.
**Faculty and Staff**

Academic advisors at the Central Region campuses have been busy streamlining the orientation process with the goal of making the transition to UCF smoother and more convenient for incoming students. In addition, changes allow advisors to maximize their pre-orientation time with students for individual planning and attention. Students are required to meet with an advisor, regardless of whether they complete virtual or live orientation.

If choosing virtual orientation, the student meets with an advisor and views a Pre-Orientation Advising presentation covering registration, myUCF navigation, and Knights e-mail setup. The advisor then reviews the student’s degree program and helps with the first semester schedule. After that, the orientation hold is lifted and the student can register for classes.

If the student chooses live orientation, he/she must first meet with an advisor. Again, they will view the presentation first and review their program and schedule next. Finally, when they attend orientation, they are ready to register that day.

In the coming months, advisors will roll out the Pre-Orientation presentation to the Advising Wiki and require via e-mail that all students view the presentation at home before their advising appointment. They must bring a form to their appointment that confirms they viewed the presentation and acknowledges the important information it contains.

**STUDENTS**

Students, faculty and staff shared a fun-filled Spirit Day at the Valencia West campus as part of the festivities during Homecoming Week. Attendees enjoyed light refreshments while participating in games such as Stick to IT, A Bit Dicey, and Broom Ball. Staff and students faced off against each other in dance contests on the X-Box. Students also had the opportunity to win great prizes, such as T-shirts, football tickets and movie passes, by spinning the prize wheel.

Chad Cronin, Legal Studies faculty member, has worked closely with the UCF Mock Trial Team over the past year, competing regionally and nationally over the fall semester, winning numerous awards. Their success has resulted in an invitation to the Duke University Mock Trial Invitational where only the BEST teams from across the nation are selected. According to Chad, the students often practice 4-5 nights a week until past midnight. “In my opinion, they are shining stars in the Legal Studies program,” he said.

The following students received special recognition during the mock trial tournaments: **Rob Zahradnik-Mitchell** - Outstanding Attorney, **Ali Kamalzadeh** – Outstanding Witness, **Catya Ruiz** – Outstanding Attorney.

Congratulations to the students and to Chad.
Faculty and Staff

Charles Viggiano, (COB) earned a Teaching Incentive Program award.

Jim Katt presented a co-authored study at the Instructional Development Division of the National Communication Association entitled “Personality and its Association with Students’ Prosocial/Antisocial Communication Orientations.”

Brevard County Sheriff’s Office Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) Candance Matthews instructed Max Coulanges and Schneider Marcelin on obtaining blood samples from crime scene evidence during Deborah Rhyne’s criminal investigation class.

Al Davis, Sheryl Schagen, and John King were presented with their 10-year service awards and Todd Jennings earned his 5-year service award.

Angel Edgecombe, Angie Jones and Sheryl Schagen attended the annual Transfer Advising Workshop and staffed the Regional Campuses information table.

Shakira Guice, Nick Pantloni and Kristina Watkins attended their first Express Decision Days at BCC Cocoa, Melbourne and Palm Bay. Kristina also completed two financial aid webinars.

CAMPUS NEWS

Student Outreach Services celebrated the beginning of the new school year with multiple events on both campuses, including an Ice Cream Social, Resource Breakfast, Game Day, and Get to Know Your SOS Team Day. Over 200 students attended.

Wendy Perez and Deborah Rhyne organized a distracted driving event—“Put Down UR Cell Phone,” using simulators and games.

BCC-UCF Writing Center set up a Three Word Storyboard in the Cocoa library inviting contributors to write the next three words in a collaboratively-written, spooky story. BCC and UCF students, staff, and faculty were invited to participate with the results posted on its Facebook page on October 20, National Day on Writing.

STUDENTS

Court Watch Brevard, founded by Cocoa student Nancy St. George, has helped UCF and BCC students gain insight into how the court system deals with domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse while they earn community service credits. For more information, visit their web site (http://courtwatchbrevard.org/).

Several members of Student Council for Exceptional Children 1050 will be attending the Council for Exceptional Children Convention this fall. Members have also participated in an anti-bullying program in Cocoa area elementary schools. Dan Ezell is their advisor.

Student Nursing Association Cocoa participated in the Back-to-School event for Coquina and Riverview Elementary in Titusville. They provided free clinical services such as blood pressure screenings, scoliosis screenings, vision screenings and dental and personal hygiene education to around 100 families. The group also held a car wash fundraiser, with 10% going toward Bright Star, and volunteered at the Special Olympics Florida.

Sheryl Schagen and Nancy Brasil visited multiple BCC education classes at three campuses to discuss program requirements and tips for preparing for UCF entry.

Lenae Walton, Jessica Houts, and Ashley Harper, advisors and UCF graduates, attended the UCF Grad Fair.

Diana Soltys attended the Diversity Training session “Power and Privilege: Membership Has Its Benefits” and joined the Scholarship Committee for the USPS Staff Council.

Welcome to the newest student assistant additions to our office: Jessica Valdez, a junior majoring in criminal justice, and Katie Hart, a senior majoring in social science.

UCF Cocoa and UCF Palm Bay welcomed our 2011-2012 Student Ambassadors—Sarah Sacra, Gary Moore, Darius Sloan, and Ashley Ostoski—who, as BCC alumni, promote the Direct Connect to UCF transition and our regional campuses.