Are you interested in using FaceBook to connect with your students outside the classroom? Facebook can be used to share resources (such as links, photos, useful websites), have discussion boards and increase the involvement of your students.

We are currently developing a training to assist you in setting up an account and a page for your class or even department. If interested, please contact Micaela Smith at x5866 or email at: msmith@deltacollege.edu

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This newsletter is a publication brought to you in the spirit of

Re-Energizing Students’ Motivation  
--Regina Popper, Faculty, English, St. Louis Community College, MO  
From the On Course Website

INTRODUCTION:
I teach transfer as well as developmental level English courses. I’ve been most disturbed by the attrition rate of both my under-prepared and bright students. Half way through one recent semester of my Developmental English class (pre-Comp I), I noticed the original energy of the students was slipping, absences were increasing, and more homework was coming in late. So I needed an activity that would give these students a chance to re-energize themselves for the “last lap.” I developed an assignment that would give my students an opportunity to delve deep into what could motivate them to continue working hard and achieve success. Although I used this activity in a composition course, variations of it (such as a letter or journal entry) could be used in any course where the instructor is seeing students’ motivation and efforts flagging. I suggest using it between the sixth week and mid-semester.

PURPOSE:
• To re-energize student motivation to achieve an academic goal
• To help students discover their own personal steps to achieve an academic goal
• To inspire more responsible student behavior and class participation

DIRECTIONS:
1. Explain that midterm is the time of the semester when many students lose sight of their academic goals, lose motivation, and stop taking actions necessary for college success. Offer specific examples from behaviors of past students. Suggest to students that now would be a good time for them to take a look at a key goal they have for college this semester, reminding themselves of their personal motivation for succeeding.
2. Distribute Handout A: “Steps to Achieve a Goal.” Have students fill in the blanks.
3. Distribute the colored half sheets and then, based on question # 7 of Handout A (Steps), have students complete a “New Changes Reminder/Bookmark” that they can keep in their textbook or post at home for frequent review.
4. If possible, allow class time for large- or small-group discussion, especially about ways to change negative tendencies. Students will realize they are not alone in facing challenges and will benefit from each other’s action steps or tips for change. For example, if a student targets “study more carefully,” other class members may offer some specific study tips that work for them. Or if a student wonders how to resist friends who want to party mid-week, first ask the student what he/she thinks would work, and then seek additional input from the class. What has worked for them?

For the full article & the list of supplies, please click here.
New Student Group Advising Sessions:

Spotlighting a New Service in Counseling

By Delecia Nunnally
Dean of Counseling & Special Services

The Counseling and Special Services Division has implemented New Student Group Advising sessions to assist new students interested in attending Delta College. The New Student Group Advising sessions are 3.5-hour sessions taught by counselors and were developed due to the reduction of Guidance 11 Orientation classes. The key components of the sessions are: 1) to assist students with choosing classes for their first semester; 2) assist students in understanding the registration process; and 3) provide general information about Delta College. Students are required to complete the application for admissions and take the assessment test prior to attending the session.

The first hour of the session, Counselors explain college terminology, matriculation steps, registration process, campus guidelines, classroom guidelines, financial aid, campus resources, navigating the student portal, general education and major requirements. The remaining 2.5 hours, students are divided into groups to meet with a counselor to discuss and plan their classes for the next semester. Counselors review the assessment results and provide a thorough explanation of levels of reading, writing, and math. Counselors describe the difference between certificate programs and AA degrees as well as provide a brief introduction of general education patterns (AA, CSU, & UC). Students are encouraged to make an individual counseling appointment during the regular semester for a Student Educational Plan (SEP).

All sessions are held in the DeRicco building at various times throughout the semester and more information is provided at http://www.deltacollege.edu/dept/guidance/NewStudentOrientation.html. Students may sign up for New Student Group Advising Sessions in the Counseling Center, DeRicco 234 or by calling 209-954-5151 ext 6276.

For a PowerPoint presentation further detailing the New Student Group Advising sessions click here.