

SUCCESS

IT'S PERSONAL AT DEFIANCE COLLEGE

Personal Success Plans help students map out the best strategy to achieve their college goals

The 2010-11 academic year is the first year in which new students will enter Defiance College with their own individualized strategic plan.

The Personal Success Plan is a recent innovation designed to help students map out the best strategy to achieve their college goals. The PSP will help students figure out ways that they want to grow academically, personally, culturally, and in many other ways.

Each incoming student who attends orientation meets (together with his or her parents) with a team representing a range of services and programs at DC. Teams may include a faculty member, a coach (if applicable), administrative vice president, student services staff member, alumnus, and others. This initial planning and advising session includes discussion of the student's expectations and some visioning and refining of initial goals and development for the first semester. The members of each student's team will be able to assist that student as he/she develops and then implements the plan.

"I am really excited about this initiative which moves us even closer to our ideal of being a truly student-centered college," said President Mark C. Gordon. "I know that the prospective students who have begun the PSP process have found the experience productive."

The initial meetings that have taken place at summer orientation have provided faculty and staff with a wealth of information from new students and their parents. Teams have been able to gather information about



Each new student's Personal Success Plan (PSP) includes an interview with a PSP team during orientation.

thinking about their future at DC and beyond.

"What I like most about the PSP is that it is intentional and proactive, not just reactive," said Lisa Marsalek, assistant dean of students and director of career development.

"It will require students to think and plan about all aspects of their student experience from academic to social and vocational to spiritual. This level of planning by individual students should help them to create a rewarding and engaging college experience and set them up to transition into a successful career." ♦

students' commitment to career choice, level of study skills, interest in participating in student organizations, and hopes and fears that they and their parents have about starting college. This information will be available to first-year seminar instructors who will work with students to begin crafting their individual plans. Throughout the first semester, FS 101 instructors will guide students through self-discovery and career planning activities that will assist students in