

Merritt College

Title III Grant Project

*Strengthening Pathways, Systems, and Services to
Maximize Student Success*

Presentation to the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

*By Dr. Audrey Trotter
Title III Grant Project Director*

Welcome and Thanks!

Peralta Community College Board of Trustees

Chancellor José M. Ortiz

Presidents

Faculty, Staff, and Administrators

Students

Members of the Community

Goals of the Title III Presentation

- Purpose of Title III Grant Projects
- Required Reporting Structure
- Historical Perspective of Title III at Merritt
- Merritt's Title III Grant Activity
- Highlights of Title III Components and Goals
- Challenges and Opportunities
- Grant Administration and Management
- Institutionalization Goals
- Title III Team

Purpose of Title III Grant Projects

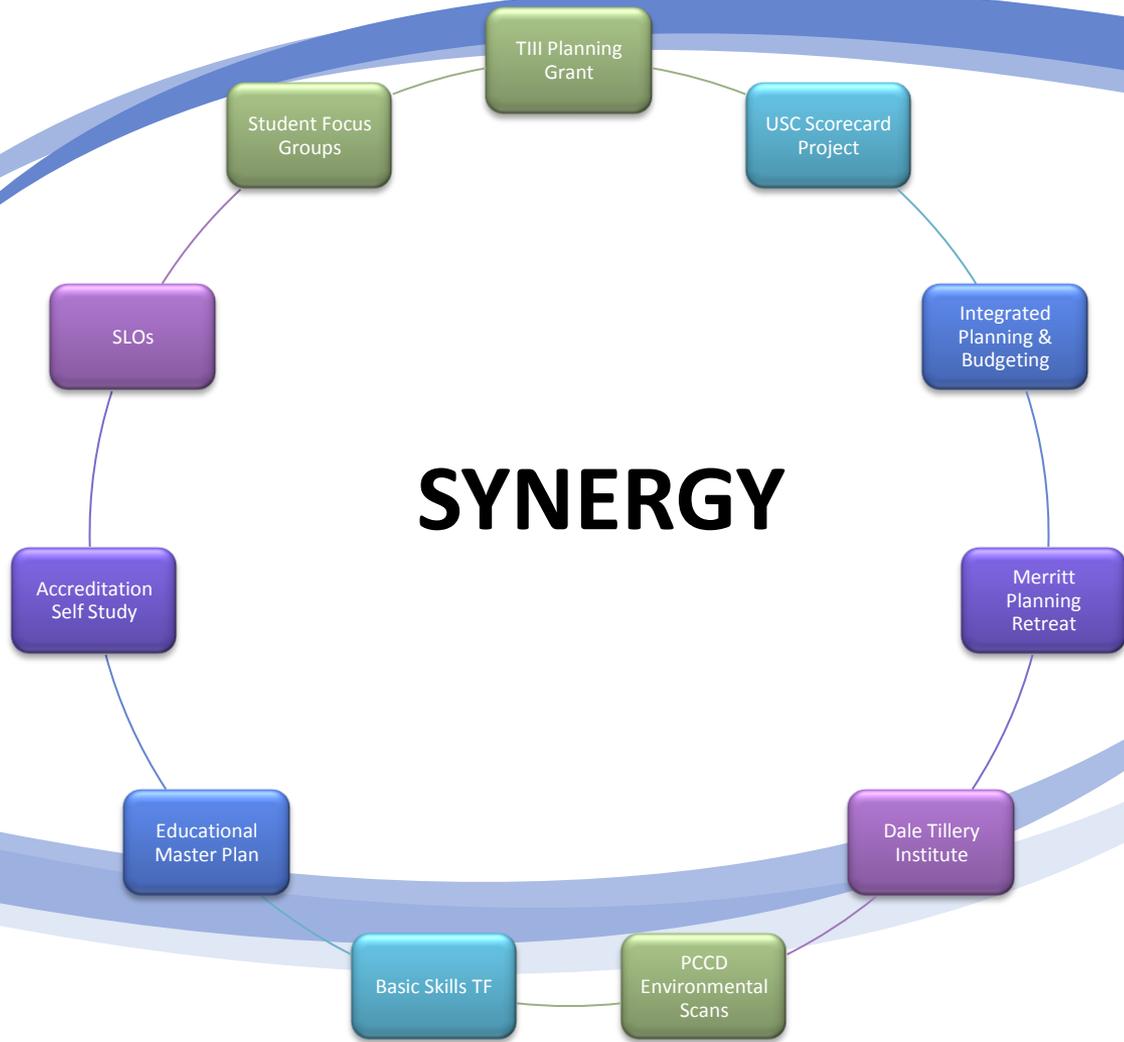
- U.S. Department of Education
 - Institutional Services Program
 - Competitive five-year comprehensive development grant for eligible Institutions of Higher Education (IHE)
 - Designed to strengthen institutional capacity in one of three areas—academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability

Title III Grant Reporting Requirements

- Reports to the President
 - To sustain institutional capacity building
 - To ensure required direction and oversight of the program
 - To meet required institutionalization goals
- Title III President/CEO Leadership at Merritt
 - Dr. Evelyn Wesley
 - Dr. George Herring
 - Dr. Robert Adams
 - Dr. George Herring
 - Dr. Patricia Stanley



Synergy and Opportunities



Convergence of Planning Processes—2005 to 2006

Historical Perspective of Title III at Merritt College

Synergy

Convergence of Planning Processes and
Opportunities

Informed Title III Planning Processes

Institution-wide Assessment of Institutional
Strengths and Weaknesses

2006—Unsuccessful Title III Application

2008—Successful Title III Award for \$1,897,314

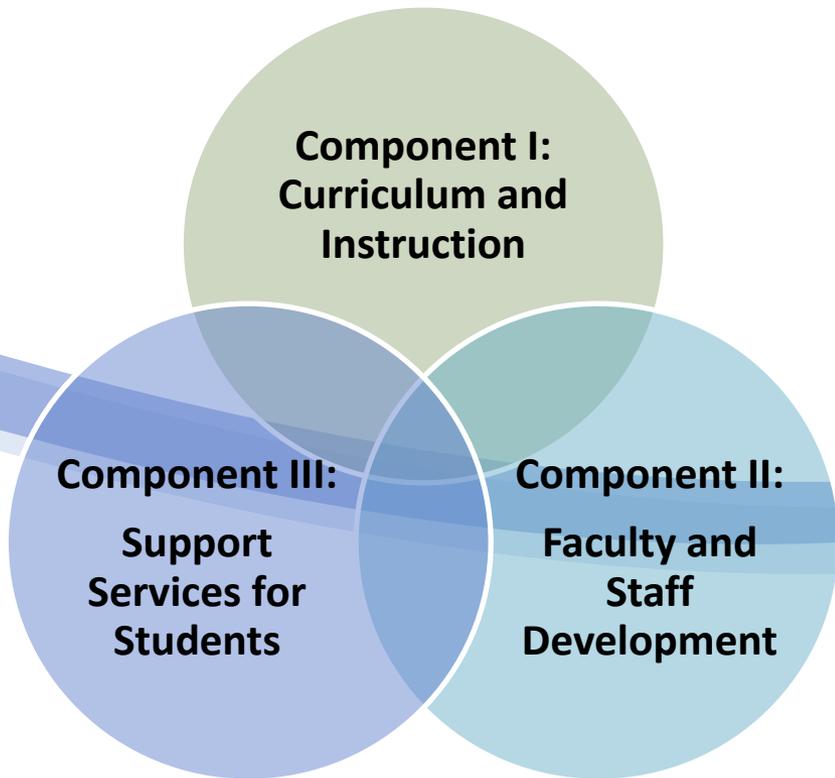


Strengthening Pathways, Systems, and Services to
Maximize Student Success

TITLE III GRANT ACTIVITY

Strengthening Pathways, Systems, and Services to Maximize Student Success

THREE INTER-RELATED COMPONENTS



FOUR GOALS

- Goal 1:** Strengthen the institution's core academic performance indicators in four key areas: retention, drop rate, course completion, and transfer.
- Goal 2:** Strengthen curriculum for basic skills and gateway courses.
- Goal 3:** Expand faculty and staff professional development to improve instruction and support services
- Goal 4:** Improve delivery and integration of academic and non-academic support services to enhance student success.

Title III Activity: Strengthening Pathways, Systems, and Services to Maximize Student Success

Goal 1

- Strengthen Merritt's academic core performance indicators in four key areas: retention, drop rate, course completion, and transfer.

Highlights

- Annual Report on Student Outcomes to measure institutional effectiveness
 - Five of ten objectives have been met between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2012
- Research and evaluation
- Utilizing institutional data, student satisfaction and student engagement surveys, and external report recommendations
 - Spring Assessment Week
 - CCSSE
 - Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Surveys
- Strategies for integrating data findings into college planning and budgeting, accreditation, and decision-making processes

Title III Activity: Strengthening Pathways, Systems, and Services to Maximize Student Success

Goal 2

- Strengthen the curriculum for basic skills and gateway courses.

Highlights

- Dr. Hunter Boylan
- Curriculum Alignment
- FOCUS—Foundations for College Success
- Learning Communities
- Integrative Learning
- Embedded Tutors
- CSSI—Summer Bridge
- Cadre of Instructors
- Teacher Brown Bag Series

Title III Activity: Strengthening Pathways, Systems, and Services to Maximize Student Success

Goal 3

- Expand faculty and staff professional development to improve instruction and support services.

Highlights

- Teaching and Learning Center (TLC)
- Learning Communities
- Integrative Learning
- Kellogg Institute
- First-Year Experience Institute
- Ongoing professional development activities
- Campus Innovation Mini-Grants

Title III Activity: Strengthening Pathways, Systems, and Services to Maximize Student Success

Goal 4

- Improve delivery and integration of academic and non-academic support services for students to enhance student success.

Highlights

- Noel-Levitz External Evaluation
- First Year Experience Team established transfer-oriented FYE program
- Student Services Implementation Team (SSI): Strengthen systems for delivery of: assessment, orientation, counseling and advising, financial aid, transfer, and tutorial services.
- Increase student participation in key matriculation procedures: assessment, orientation, counseling and advising
 - Mandatory orientation and assessment
 - Student Educational Plan (SEP) Project



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges and Opportunities

CHALLENGES

- Ongoing changes in staffing—administration, faculty, counselors, and classified staff
- Creating infrastructure for effective and efficient grant administration, management, and monitoring
- Overcoming philosophical differences and struggles in identifying new pedagogy and practices to change systems, pathways, and the delivery of services to students
- Staying power for changing campus culture and practices—buy-in by some and not by others

OPPORTUNITIES

- Availability of funds for innovation during an era of radical budget reductions and changes
- Learning from some of the country's foremost experts in community colleges in our own backyard
- Advancing faculty and staff participation in professional development at institutes, conferences, and workshops
- Actualizing best practices and innovation to strengthen capacity
- Promoting collaboration among the Peralta Colleges to enhance teaching and learning

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Institutionalization

Teaching and Learning Center
Coordinator

- **Year 5: .25 FTE Title III/.25 FTE Merritt**

Counselor—Basic Skills and
Gateway Learning Communities,
First-Year Experience (FYE)

- **Year 4: .25 FTE Title III/.25 FTE Merritt**
- **Year 5: .25 FTE Title III/.25 FTE Merritt**

Project Assistant—Transfer
Project Assistant--Research

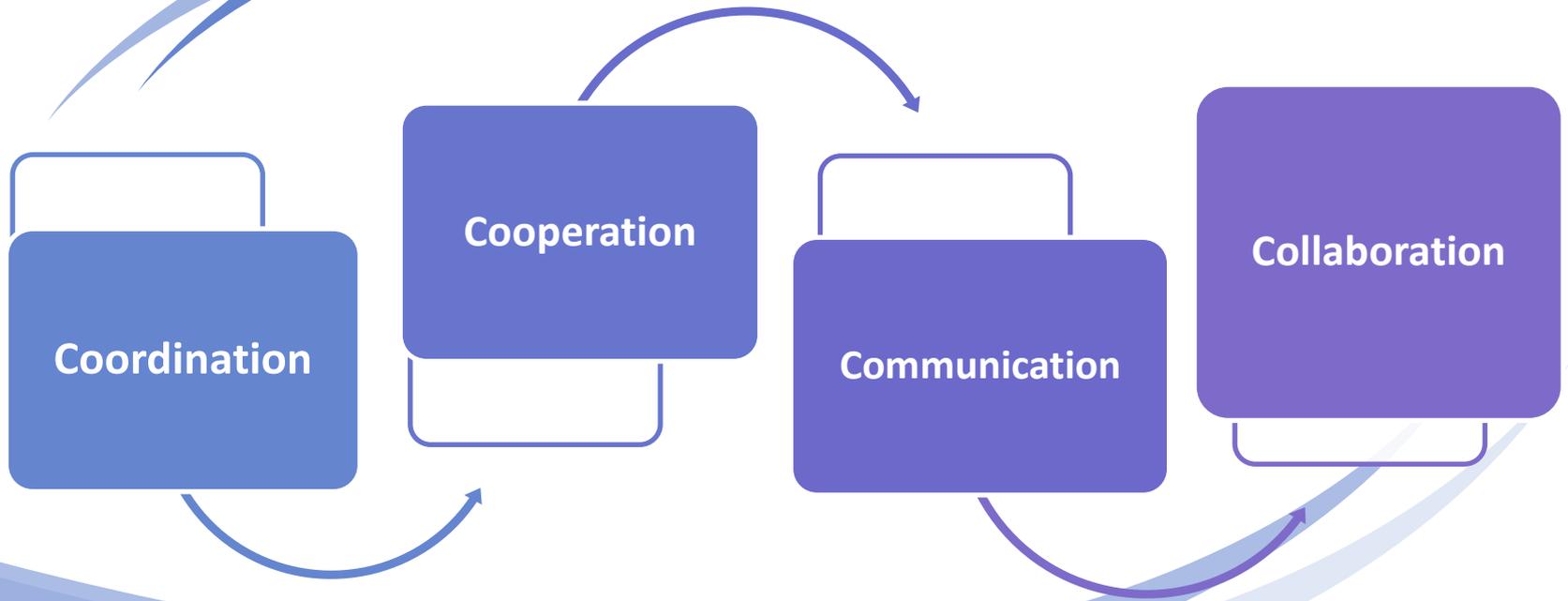
- **Year 5: 8 hrs/day x 65 days Merritt**
- **Year 5: 8hrs/day x 65 days Merritt**

Learning Center Tutors

- **Year 6 (after grant): Additional 5 tutor slots**

Grant Administration and Management

- Interdependent Goals between the District Office Service Centers and the College
 - Achievements
 - Attention Areas
 - Issues for Resolution



**Strategies to Support Interdependent Goals
Between the College and District Office
Service Centers**

The 4 “C”s for Title III Grant Project Goal Achievement

Coordination

- Continuous to meet District and college expectations
- District/College meeting of grant directors

Cooperation

- Value individual and shared expertise
- Timely processes to ensure grant compliance

Communication

- Information sharing to support joint problem-solving
- Policy changes in writing to all college constituencies

Collaboration

- Two-way support for successful project management
- Understanding information needs of others and to do own work
- Understanding competing goals, priorities, and insufficient resources

Merritt College Title III Success

Special Acknowledgements

Title III Dream Team

Title III Team Members

Merritt College Faculty, Staff, and Students

District Office Service Centers and Colleagues

Jennifer Lough Kennedy, Grant Writer and External Evaluator

Anika Toussant-Jackson, Former Research and Planning Officer

Dr. Ruth Brousseau and Robin Horner, Consultants, Annual Report of Student Outcomes

Alejandria Tomas, Title III Staff Assistant

Lorna Pascual, Title III

Merritt College Administrative Leadership Team

Dr. Patricia Stanley, Interim President, Merritt College

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THANK YOU!!!