STUDENT MENTORING PROJECT

The Student Mentoring Project will explore, study, and recommend the design of a mentoring program scaled to serve all MCC students.

Please think about the **Three (3) Problem Statement Questions** below and add your thoughts to each one. You are not limited on the number of thoughts/answers you provide. The more the better! Please complete by 2/29/16.

NAME	#1 - What challenges currently exist?
J. Welliver	Students want guidance from someone that has been down the path that can offer reliable and valid support, information, and tips for success or exploration of an issue.
J. Welliver	There is no formal physical location to identify a "mentoring" place.
J. Welliver	There is no formal system in place for students helping students or faculty helping students.
A. Burleson	Students who are having trouble "navigating" the college experience do not know where to turn for assistance
A. Burleson	There are some low-scale mentoring programs on campus, but may not be available to all students.
A. Witham	*so many Students and not enough mentors *I think that throughout the college Knowledge is huge (this is hard to explain by typing) I feel I don't know the needs for students in other programs or I may not know "all i need to know" regarding advising.
J.Cartagena	There are many different types of mentoring program. Which direction do we want to go? Peer Mentoring? Profession or Trade Mentor
J.Cartagena	Which department will this mentor program be managed by?
J. Cartagena	How and where will we recruit mentors?
N.Roan	Screening mentors. background checks, training for the mentors, logistics of the process - when, where, how, etc.
L. Ruffin	Defining "mentoring"
L. Ruffin	Identifying students who would benefit from a mentoring program

A. Newton	Type of mentoring program?
Joi Callahan	Which is more appropriate: MCC seek out students or allow students to seek mentorship? Both?

Joi Callahan	Will it involve personal or strictly academic mentorship?

NAME	#2 - What is/are the current perception(s) of the problem?
J. Welliver	Since we do not have a mentoring program, I think most students do not see it as a problem; they use established places like Learning Center, Writing Center, or Math Empowerment Center for help. Other students participate in study groups based on their interests/classes/major.
J. Welliver	The problem could be that as an institution of higher learning, it would and should be expected that we offer a formal Mentoring program (to help students Achieve the Dream?)
Burleson, A.	A common perception is that a mentoring program would increase retention because students who are "at-risk" will have someone who can provide them with guidance and assistance.
Burleson, A.	Students may perceive that it is challenging to understand all of the systems, organizations and expectations of the college without someone (staff or peer) to guide them. Often second year students will say "I wish I had known...last year" As faculty/staff/administrators we become so familiar with internal policies, we may become "blind" to the challenges some students face.
A. Witham	*Some student want a mentor, they may not need one but other students who truly need one may not take advantage of a mentor and feel they do not need one. *I think another problem is breaking this whole process down and finding a good place to start
Metcalfe, N	
Joi Callahan	Students know how to be a "college student"

NAME	#3 - What is the "real" problem?
J. Welliver	The real problem is not understanding the function of a Mentoring program. It comes down to student expectations and administrative expectations. Students think they can juggle 3 kids, 4 classes, and still work 30-40 hours a week (we are a community college…). Then when they fall short, they are looking for someone to help/understand/blame. Administrators may think putting this idea on paper will provide a solution, but if the student is unable and unwilling to use current resources at the college to increase success, what would the mentoring program provide that could change that?
Burleson, A	There is no "typical" Mott Community College student. Students at Mott range in age from dual enrolled high school students to older adults returning to the workforce. Students are at all different stages and phases of life, so a "one size fits all" model of student services is not practical or effective.
A Witham	* busy lives is no doubt a huge problem and can overwhelm students but finances come into play. I feel we have to come up with a way to help student realize and reassure they are in charge of their own future and have to take the steps to be responsible and seek out a mentor. (which brings us back to the process of having a program in place) :) I am all about being someone encourager and resource but how do we get the student to value this as a "need" Sorry to answer a question with a question, but this is where I get stuck.
N Roan	Sorry, i don't have much experience with the students. My perception is this is all directed toward student retention.I think that is the 'real' problem mentoring is trying to fix.
Joi Callahan	A problem that exists for some students is the idea that all students know what it takes to be successful in college. I've met many students that even have difficulty reading their class schedules. A common example is "TR", represents to students that class meets on Thursday only! So students will come to class on Thursdays only until they learn otherwise, therefore missing a lot of valuable class material.