



### *Journey Staff*

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Journey is located in the Career Planning & Counseling Center - 149A • Lex Walters Campus-Greenwood

# Journey

NEWSLETTER

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### *Journey's Progress in the 2nd Year*

This year the Journey grant is working with 30 Engineering Technology students as they start PTC. Sharon Saxon, Case Manager for the grant has help these students navigate the admissions process and register for their 1st semester classes. The students, with Sharon's help, have completed an Individualized Graduation Plan in Degree Works and setting goals. The Degree Works plan will help students identify the steps they need to take to be successful each semester until graduation. Working with

*(continued on page 2)*



## Journey's Progress in the 2nd Year (continued)

Sharon, each student developed a plan for the first year coursework. In addition, Sharon has assisted the students in getting connected to campus resources such as the Tutoring Center, TLC, and workshops.

These 30 students have worked with Haven Willimon, Career Specialist, to complete a number of assessments, such as TypeFocus, College Student Inventory, and WorkKeys, providing them valuable information about themselves and how they

learn. The staff has seen the students' confidence grow as they discovered more about themselves and how they learn. The grant has provided several workshops focused on academic and personal skills for the target population. Additionally a Meet and Greet was held for the 30 students in the grant to meet their advisors and future instructors. The Engineering Technology faculty worked closely with the grant staff to assist the students participating in the grant.

Of 30 students, 90% persisted from Fall to Spring and have an average GPA of 3.4.

In addition to working with the Engineering Technology students, the grant worked with more than 100 Undecided students during Year Two. The staff, in connection with PTC Career Counselor, Brenda Edwards, assisted with these undecided students to facilitate the selection of good career choices, and highlight the college's STEM programs. As the students were assessed and their aptitude for STEM curricula was identified, the students were referred to Journey to discuss Engineering Technology majors and the related degrees and transfer options offered by PTC.

By connecting these students with Engineering Technology faculty, the students can talk with someone that has worked in their field of interest. If Engineering Technology is not the STEM major chosen, the student is provided with information on the college's other STEM curricula and appropriate referrals are made.



## JOURNEY PROGRAM Student Accomplishments

### fall 2012

#### DEAN'S LIST

- Zach Gunwall
- John E Matthews
- James McCoy

#### MERIT LIST

- Jeremy Harris,
- Justin Hudson
- Jason Loveless

### spring 2013

HI-TECH SCHOLARS - Zach Gunwall and Jeremy Houchins

INDUCTED INTO THE TAU ALPHA PI HONOR SOCIETY  
John Matthews

INDUCTED INTO PHI THETA KAPPA  
Zach Gunwall and John Matthews

## In Year Two (2012-2013) we are:

- Working with 30 Engineering Technology majors (EET,MET,EGT) and 100 Undecided students
- Piloting our Student Assessment System with target groups
- Piloting our Case Management System with the Engineering Technology cohort
- Working with the Financial Aid offices to develop Financial Aid Literacy Support System
- Working with the COL 103 faculty to develop a First 1st Year Experience course with a STEM focus
- Researching Retention Tracking software systems

## For Year Three (2013-2014) we will:

- Continue Case Management with the current cohort
- Pilot modified Assessment & Case Management system with 30 Associate of Science majors
- Pilot the Financial Aid Literacy Support System with 300 students
- Pilot the COL 103 class with a STEM focus
- Work with COL 103 staff to develop an online version of the STEM focused COL 103 class
- Work with appropriate faculty and staff to design and develop a Learning Community

## Mentors

The Journey mentors play a pivotal role in helping our students. Mentors are second or third year students who have provided academic support, information on how to access campus resources and encouragement. The mentors also assist in classrooms and Engineering labs as well as special campus events. Their faithfulness, flexibility and willingness to help are an important asset to the program and to the students.

On April 25, 2013, Piedmont Technical Colleges held its Thirty-Ninth Annual Awards and Recognition Program. Several of the Journey mentors were recognized for their outstanding achievements and service. We congratulate the mentors on their accomplishments and wish them continued success in the future.



## Career Coach

During Year Two, the grant purchased Career Coach, a tool that allows students and any visitor to the PTC website to learn about employment prospects for careers they want to research. The real-time information is customized to the College's geographic region, and provide detailed wage estimates. Up-to-date job postings associated with any career can be found through a simple keyword search.