

**Title:** Starfish Early Alert/Retention Solutions

### **Background**

The Starfish Retention Solutions was selected by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, through the Education Planning Initiative, as the system-wide technology that will help students identify their academic goals, develop structured, personalized plans for success and make informed course choices about their education. Nine college districts piloted the software before it rolled out to the remaining colleges in 2016. Foothill-De Anza Community College District's acquisition and implementation of the software was approved at the November 7, 2016 board meeting and is funded through SSSP.

### **Vision**

There are three modules to this Academic Advising and Planning Solutions platform, Early Alert, Connect, and Degree Audit. De Anza College will begin with the Early Alert, the early warning and student tracking module that detects at-risk students in time to intervene at the very first sign of a problem.

Early Alert as an intervention program will allow faculty to notify counselors of any issues that may affect the success of a student. This online system will facilitate communication, provide information on campus and local resources, and records data.

An Early Alert/Retention Core Team will be established to provide guidance and collaboration in the implementation and ongoing early alert/retention process. This team will be a multidisciplinary representative body of De Anza College dedicated to managing early alert and retention through the Starfish software. The Team will develop the core components of the De Anza Early Alert/Retention project, to include goals, engagement protocols, communications, outcome measures, and learning.

### **Planning process summary**

Through this platform a link will be established through faculty who have frequent contact with students enabling them to identify potential problems, and counselors who have the resources available to address problems.

The De Anza College Early Alert/Retention Core Team, through the use of the Starfish Retention Solutions software, will serve the following purposes:

- 1) Define project goals
  1. Align the early alert/retention project with De Anza's Strategic Plan, Student Equity Plan, Student Success and Success Plan (3SP), and other programs/projects focused in this area.
  2. Create comprehensive alert and retention tactics to meet identified student needs
- 2) Identify target population
  1. Focus on programs associated with College identified at-risk populations as referenced in Strategic Plan, Student Equity Plan, and SSSP.
  2. Identify patterns among students who have excelled and use the outcome to inform strategies for closing skills and retention gaps among those at risk.
  3. Identify the 'red flags'

- 3) Engage at-risk students
- 4) Develop retention strategies in collaboration with other programs/project focused in this area.
- 5) Make early alerts and retention a focal point of De Anza's culture
- 6) Establish outcome measures and learn objectives.

**Timeline for implementation and/or Methodology**



**Recommendation to the Academic Senate**

Affirm support for the implementation of the Starfish Retention Solutions for De Anza College. Request the Academic Senate appoint faculty members to serve on the Early Alert/Retention Core Team.

De Anza will have an official Starfish kick-off once the project has been communicated across the College. De Anza's Hobsons (Starfish) Implementation Consultant will provide assistance throughout the project.

Presented by:

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