FINDING THE BIG IDEA:

How attending a conference can drive institutional change

Norco College

Strengthening Student Success Conference, 2016
MEET OUR BIG IDEA TEAM

Monica Green, Interim President
Melissa Bader, Associate Professor, English
Ana-Marie Olaerts, Associate Professor, Communication Studies
Jason Parks, Professor, Mathematics
Diane Dieckmeyer, Vice President, Academic Affairs
THE PROBLEM

ATTENDING CONFERENCES IS A BIG INVESTMENT OF TIME AND MONEY FOR AN INSTITUTION, BUT HOW DO WE KNOW IF IT EVER HELPS THE INSTITUTION?

WHAT INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE EVER OCCURS AS A RESULT OF ATTENDING A CONFERENCE?

“Ideas are easy. It’s the execution of ideas that really separates the sheep from the goats.”
— Sue Grafton
What are some roadblocks you have experienced in implementing new ideas after a conference?
OUR SOLUTION?

STARTED WITH A TEAM!

Interdisciplinary and represents various stakeholders

Had a team leader

Connected with the team before the conference & strategized our sessions

Engaged with the team during the conference

Engaged with the team after the conference
Scheduled a debrief meeting the following week

Used a template to organize our ideas

Ideas had to be tied to the needs, mission, and strategic goals of our college

Everyone had to share at least one idea (accountability)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Big Idea</th>
<th>What Need/ Problem Would This Address at Norco?</th>
<th>Who Might Be Responsible?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ana-Marie Olaerts</td>
<td>Changing our mindset: fostering a culture of a growth mindset versus a fixed mindset.</td>
<td>Need: Support Norco Colleges core commitments (e.g., innovation, quality, student success).</td>
<td>Everyone, but especially: PDC, Legacy, ASNC</td>
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<td>Sarah</td>
<td>Incorporating a service learning component into our courses.</td>
<td>Need: To support our motto, “Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s Leaders.”</td>
<td>Department Chairs, Curriculum, PDC</td>
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<td>Sarah</td>
<td>Incorporate the ideas found in the book Mindset (Carol Dweck) into all classrooms/offices. Start with providing access to the book, generate discussion groups, and build to an activity in a Professional Learning Community <a href="http://mindsetonline.com/whatisit/about/">http://mindsetonline.com/whatisit/about/</a> Help students, staff and faculty to view challenges as an opportunity for growth; to enhance our motivation to work with each other and for our students; to see the students as all having potential (equity plan)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Senate, Professional Development Committee, APC, departments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greg</td>
<td>• Explore non-cognitive (affective) factors as part of student success • Use rigorously researched assessment instrument to determine IF NCVs are a prevalent challenge to student success at Norco College</td>
<td>Flat line of student success graph Possible theoretical framework to guide pedagogical shift</td>
<td>All faculty, Teaching and Learning group, Student Success Committee</td>
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</table>
Discuss common themes & narrowed the focus to one or two ideas

Discuss logistics - costs/funding, timeline, responsibility

We became a book group:
  - Selected a book of choice related to our interest
  - Assigned team to return to the group to report what we learned

WE HIT A ROADBLOCK!
- DECEMBER
WE FOUND OUR BIG IDEA!

RETURNED FOR BOOK TALKS - MARCH
2016 Strengthening Student Success Conference

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Are you at this conference with a team?
Do you have a team “leader” who can pull the group together?
Would you be willing to meet after the conference to debrief?
Have you heard anything you could use next week?
What about a long-term idea?
QUESTIONS FOR OUR TEAM?