State of LCP: Business Pathway

Description of Program:
The Business Pathway includes a broad field of disciplines incorporating many types of management and administrative careers in Business, Economics or Information Technology, such as: Office Specialists, Administrative Assistants, Cyber Security Technicians, Operations Research Analysts, Political Scientists, Accountants, Human Resource Managers, and Project Managers. From major corporations to independent organizations, every business thrives from leaders with the right educational foundation and training. The Business Pathway prepares students with skills to transition into gainful employment, a higher level of employment, or further educational advancement to a four-year institution.

Current State:
Although the Business Pathway began in 2017 along with the other nine (9) Pathways, it became functional in the Fall 2018 semester. The Business Pathway Completion Coaching team has been meeting weekly since September 2018 and has become among the most active Pathways at BC. The primary foci of the Business Pathway Completion Coaching team in the Fall 2018 semester have been to:

- Define and understand our Pathway mission, goals and objectives (completed September 2018)
- Fully develop and finalize the membership list (roster) of our Completion Coaching team (completed September 2018)
- Develop the communication infrastructure for the pathway team, such as listservs, distribution lists and a pathway-specific email/Outlook account (completed September 2018)
- Develop the content for the Business Pathway’s website (completed October 2018), including the Business Pathway video, which is still in progress (the script and audio have been completed. The video editing should be completed in November 2018).

The members of the Business Pathway Completion Coaching Community are further divided into three (3) subteams, including:

- The Data Subteam, responsible for collecting, analyzing, reviewing and reporting student data related to the Business Pathway. This Subteam began meeting in November 2018.
- The Communication Subteam, responsible for developing communications to appropriate student audiences, as well as coordinating the Pathway Team’s efforts to contact affected students. Additionally, the Communication Subteam support the Programming Subteam through the development of marketing and promotional materials related to Pathway event. This Subteam began meeting in November 2018.
- The Programming Subteam, responsible for developing relevant co-curricular events and activities in alignment with the Pathway Team’s mission. For example, informational sessions, networking opportunities, seminars and social activities. This Subteam began meeting in November 2018.

Advancing BC’s Mission and Strategic Directions:
The Business Pathway supports BC’s mission of supporting students from diverse backgrounds to complete their academic goals, prepare for transfer, and/or enhance their workplace skills related to the fields of Business, Economics or Information Technology. The curriculum provided through the academic programs within the Business Pathway provide rigorous, yet supportive, learning experiences that results in students who attain BC’s institutional learning outcomes of thinking critically,
communicating effectively, demonstrating competence, and engaging productively in their career fields and communities.

The academic programs within the Business Pathway (Accounting, Administrative Office Assistant, Bookkeeping, Business Administration, Economics, General Business, Information Technology, and Office Assistant) directly support BC’s first strategic direction of Student Learning through the academic environment and experiences provided to students through direct instruction. Additionally, the Business Pathway support BC’s second strategic direction of Student Progression and Completion through the careful review of relevant data to ensure that students within the Business Pathway are achieving the desired momentum points (15 units in a semester; 30 units in one year; English and Math in the first year). The Pathway Team prepares communications and interventions to targeted student populations to provide additional information, resources, programs, services and support to increase their likelihood of attaining the momentum points. Presently (mid-Fall semester), the focus of the completion coaching community is to ensure that:

- Students register for 30 units within one year (including registration for the Spring semester)
- Students attempt transfer-level English and Math in their first year
- Students are aware of their priority-registration date so that they may enroll in classes as soon as possible.

Finally, the Business Pathway supports BC’s fourth strategic direction of Leadership & Engagement through building the capacity of the Completion Coaching Team. Our shared model of leadership clarifies each member’s role and responsibility on the team. Subdividing into three teams has greatly enhanced our ability to enhance opportunities for faculty leadership development and engagement.

Data:
Due to our delayed start, there is insufficient data to report regarding progress toward our goals. However, the Business Pathway is able to report the following:

- Fall 2018 first-time students: 406 (10.6% increase from Fall 2017)
- 15 units attempted by first-time students: 15.0% (compared to 9.0% in Fall 2017)
- 30 units attempted by first-time students: 15.5% (compared to 13.9% in Fall 2017)
- Completing Transfer-Level English in the first year: 22.1% (decrease from 22.7% in Fall 2016)
- Completing Transfer-Level Math in the first year: 10.1% (increase from 8.8% in Fall 2016)

Summary:
Overall, the state of the Business Pathway/LCP is strong and growing. In AY 2018-19, emphasis will be given to increased student communication and support through enhanced data use and analysis.