

PAC HONORS PROGRAM

Purpose

This emerging CAP has laid the groundwork for a January 2017 “soft launch” of the Palo Alto College Honor Program and is aligned with our Strategic Direction “Empowering Students for Success.”

Goals

- Provide faculty with professional development in the principles of honors pedagogy and curriculum development.
- Recruit 32-36 students into the first Honors cohort.
- Implement two Honors courses in January 2017.
- Create an infrastructure to sustain all facets of the program (e.g., recruiting, faculty development, course development, Honors advising, opportunities for co-curricular activities for Honors students and faculty).

Measures

- Professional Development
 - » Summer workshop on honors education conducted by Dr. Bernice Braid for 24 interested faculty held in May 2016. Outstanding evaluation of 2-day workshop.
 - » Summer workshop on honors curriculum facilitated by Dr. Lynn Preston scheduled for May 2017.
 - » Dissemination of general information about honors education at the Fall 2016 Convocation and the Spring 2017 Convocation.
- Recruiting
 - » 70 students either expressed an interest in applying for the Spring 2017 Honors cohort or were recommended by faculty for the Honors Program.
 - » All potential students were provided application materials and assigned an Honors faculty mentor to follow up with the student and assist, as needed, with the application process.
 - » 32 students were accepted into the Spring, 2017 cohort that launched the Palo Alto College Honors Program.

Outcomes

- The inaugural Honors courses were ENGL 1302 taught by Lisa Trevino and History 1302 taught by Tori Beckman-Wilson.
- Honors Headquarters is new Honors space located in Medina Hall 101.
- The Honors Legacy Student Club has been organized and is fully functioning.
- Honors students participated in Community College Day in Austin, Alternative Spring Break in New Orleans and have emerged as campus leaders.

Next Steps

- April-May: Honors advising for continuing students
- May: Honors Workshop for faculty on curriculum development
- May-August: Work with NSOs/Welcome Center and High School counselors to recruit 54 FTICs for the Fall, 2017 Honors cohort.
- September: Begin monthly Honors Teaching Circles
- October: Launch Honors Speakers' Series – 1-2 events each semester
- November: Honors directors, faculty and two students attend National Collegiate Honors Conference in Atlanta (Proposal for a student poster session has been submitted)
- November: Honors advising for Spring 2018
- Spring 2018: Student opportunities to participate in Alternative Spring Break, the Great Plains Regional Honors Council Conference and PACfest