

### **PEGASUS Points of Success for 2007-2008**

The PEGASUS Program has once again undergone changes in program format strengthening its ability to remain an important resource for FGC students.

- Received 160 applications for the PEGASUS Program.
- Recruited the largest number of participants this year at 79, without having scholarships as the incentive to participate in the program for the first time in program history.
- Provided intrusive advising; both academic and for challenges specific to FGC students and their families that included face-to-face contacts, emails and phone calls.
- 95% retention rate for participating freshmen FGC students who met all of the requirements for first-to second year at TTU. The overall retention rate of participants was 90% compare to the TTU Freshmen population at 80%.
- Mentors were retained at 100% compare to the university population at large of 86%.
- Mentors logged 4155 mentoring and outreach hours, an increase of 1786 from FY08
- Personal contacts made by Mentors totaled 12,363
- Paid \$29,090.25 in hourly wages to FGC Mentors
- Reducing the need for these academically at-risk students to be over-employed (working 2-3 part-time jobs @ minimum wage) through wages
- PEGASUS participants who met the participation requirements average GPA of 3.3 and the overall grade point average for program participants was 2.85 above the university average GPA of 2.614 for freshmen.
- PEGASUS Mentors cumulative average GPA was 3.0, another testament to the influence of the program on its students' success. (Nationally, FGC students have historically performed below the average GPA of non-FGC populations, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, 2.6 compared to 2.8).
- Awarded \$53, 506.00 in grant funds to provide \$30,000.00 in scholarships and \$23,506.00 in program support to hire additional Mentors and to serve more TTU FGC students in FY09
- Noel-Levitz spot-lighted the TTU PEGASUS Program as part of a FGC Presentation at a national conference
- Two proposals were accepted for session presentations at the Fall 2008 NACADA about First Generation College Students for the Fall 2008 National NACADA Conference in Chicago, Illinois, one on the TTU PEGASUS Program and for a panel on FGC research.
- Continued partnerships both on campus and in the community to forward the program's mission. These partnerships include The Texas Tech Visitor's Center, Office of Admissions and Office of Financial Aid, Center for Campus Life, Upward Bound, and Raider's Rojas; South Plains College and Tech Prep; *WorkSource* of the South Plains, South Plains Closing the Gaps Coalition, LEARN, Lubbock Boys-N-Girls Club, Buckner's Children and Family Services and Hope Chest of the South Plains. Goals of these partnerships included planting the seed of a college education, providing outreach info about financial services, social and personal development activities.

In summary, with six years of deliberate investment in FGC freshmen and their Student Mentors, PEGASUS once again can add graduation as a measure of accountability to determine its impact on students who have participated in the program. Of the first three classes of PEGASUS (2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005), 80% have graduated or are on track to graduate from Texas Tech. This is above the university average of 67% graduation rate in 2007-2008.