

# 2008 PERFORMANCE REPORT Kankakee Community College

## EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

Direct Connection to IBHE 2011 Strategic Goals and the related ICCS Promise for Illinois Revisited Areas: Affordability (Promise Affordable Access)

**Title of Effective Practice:** Institutional Advancement Scholarship Revision Process.

**Issue or need is addressed by the effective practice:** Privately funded scholarships through the KCC Foundation have long empowered students to affordably gain an associates degree. With new Foundation personnel dedicated to expanding and improving the process for students and for donors, a comprehensive scholarship review transpired. Needs addressed were increasing applicant ability to best match their background with scholarship criteria, increasing the number of applicants, best matching students with available dollars, complexity of filling out the application, and the best use of available dollars that these applicants could secure. Also addressed were productivity and effectiveness concerns as it related to scholarship work completed by both the Foundation staff as well as the Financial Aid Office personnel.

**Description of the effective practice:** The student application form was restructured and streamlined both for students' ease in completing the data entry and for the Foundation staff's ability to log and organize the important data. Application questions were adapted to better collect key student information, demographic background appropriate to the process, and to give students the ability to complete a single application for all scholarships, rather than one per award. This was accomplished through the collaboration of KCC personnel in the institutional effectiveness, student services, financial aid, academic advising, and institutional advancement offices. Effectively, the Financial Aid office was freed to concentrate on federal and state funded aid, while the Foundation staff handled scholarship implementation.

Scholarship applicants were able to benefit from a fully restructured, more user-friendly book that divided and cross referenced available awards by area of study, academic achievement, awards by geographic region, need, and non-traditional types of awards. To broaden awareness and reach into areas of greater need, books distribution was broadened to employment and social service agencies as addition outlets for the information beyond campus locations and high school guidance offices.

**How does this practice achieve sustainability:** The Foundation personnel is committed to annually reviewing and improving the process of scholarship distribution and increasing the number of scholarship awards enabling students to pursue higher education.

What are the results/measurable outcomes? The following shows the results of the changes to the scholarship process.

| 2007  | 2008   |
|---|--|
| Scholarship Applications: 1157                        | Scholarship Applications: 908                        |
| Number of Awards: 169 from 79 different scholarships. | Number of Awards: 185 from 86 different scholarships |
| Total Dollars Awarded: \$187,304                      | Total Dollars Awarded: \$216,034                     |
|   | New Scholarships: 11                                 |

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