

**Summer Academy Program  
Summary from Coordinator of Recruiting  
2008**

Statistics have shown that the freshman year in college is a critical juncture for all students but particularly for those who do not have a family tradition of attending college. In 2005, a unique partnership was formed between Kankakee Community College (KCC) and Kankakee High School (KHS) in order to assist first-generation students who had potential but were undecided about going to college. The initiative, entitled KCC Freshman Summer Academy, provided vital tools, information, and the support needed to help students enroll and evolve into successful college students.

In 2005, eleven students participated in the pilot program of the KCC Freshman Summer Academy. These students were provided financial assistance through KCC to enroll in one English, math, or reading general education class as well as KCC's orientation course. KCC advisors served as mentors and assisted students with their questions and concerns about attending KCC. Meetings with the career services advisor and financial aid staff supplemented the support each student received. After the summer 2005 semester, seven students continued their education at KCC and two received full-financial aide packages.

Because of the success of the Freshman Summer Academy, KCC applied for and was granted a State of Illinois HECA grant which built on the previous Freshman Summer Academy and expanded the number of students which could be served at KHS. The grant, entitled Operation On Track, was begun in September 1, 2005. Forty students were recommended by the staff at Kankakee High School. Students who had the potential and desire to attend college but were the first generation in their family to do so, were targeted for the grant. Grant funding provided additional services to be offered to the students including the purchase of supplies, lunch meetings, two field trips, and a motivational speaker. Twenty-one students participated in the program and eleven of those students continued their education into the following academic year. Six of these students received financial aid packages.

For 2007, KCC sustained the Freshman Summer Academy. Nineteen students participated in the program. Eleven of these students are currently enrolled at KCC for the Spring 2008 term and three students have enrolled at other Illinois universities.