

Virginia Western Community College

INTERNAL FOCUS GROUP MEETING – GROUP #4

Ms. Kay Strickland, Moderator
Mr. Erik Williams, Recorder

President's Conference Room
Thursday, April 5, 2007
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS

1. What idea did you hear expressed today that was the most insightful about our community's needs?

- Mike Greer from Franklin Co. – what he does; competition with Patrick Henry
- Need to get out to the community
- Everyone cares
- Promote to the high school population exactly what programs are available
- Inform the community of available programs; need a better way of selling our product and not just the institution (our programs)
- Ease access for those who might only want one or two courses

2. What would you like to see happen to follow up on today's conversation?

- Public announcement of intent to move in these directions
- Follow through and communicate a summary; have another meeting or keep informed about some of the issues that were discussed
- More space for students and their activities – an area for them to congregate
- Financial aid office could develop a form for students to sign stating they understand the obligations

3. Would you recommend any changes to the location or to the way we conducted this discussion?

- Was great, open and inviting
- Excellent

4. Are there any ideas you want to share with the College that you did not get a chance to express in the group? If so, please note them here, using the back of this page as needed.

- Coordinate students seeing advisors for registration with faculty schedules; summer breaks for faculty mean they aren't available for advising
- Real challenge is the diversity of the people we serve; must be able to reach the 4-year college transfer student as well as the high school dropout who is returning to school; identified at admission
- Play a bigger role in advising; must provide training to do this

- We are a big school that must function like a small one
- Need to figure out ways to utilize the staff we have to better serve students, because it is highly unlikely that we will get additional staff in the key areas of counseling and financial aid
- Prior to fall registration, should look seriously at having several orientation sessions and financial aid workshops (weekdays and Saturdays); do not have to be held on campus each time