

# Virginia Western Community College

## INTERNAL FOCUS GROUP MEETING – GROUP #1

**Mr. Bill Hackworth, Moderator**

**Ms. Kay Strickland, Recorder**

**Natural Science Center**

**Tuesday, April 3, 2007**

**12 Noon – 1:00 p.m.**

### SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS

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

- On-campus childcare
- Formal orientation process, which would exempt high ability students from SDV and allow them to move on
- More intensive and required faculty advising
- Focus on tuition and student orientation
- Include computer literacy in the SDV course, but also provide an opportunity for students to test out of that part
- Need for revision of our student and faculty orientations; importance of beginning orientation as a requirement
- Financial aid proportioned
- Discussion on orientation and study skills course
- Better student orientation; better advertising of college and resources; more promotion in and outside college Honors Institute
- VA-21
- Targeting high school students to increase enrollment, utilizing staff and faculty

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

- On-campus childcare; address daycare issue with someone who can make it happen
- More publicity about college's programs, resources and financial aid
- Follow through on better enrollment procedures and orientation; formal orientation process
- Implementation of the changes suggested
- More focus groups and action
- Additional resources
- Follow up responses to the groups attending the meeting
- More information to the community regarding articulation agreements

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

- Great as is; very helpful
- Need to make sessions 1.5 hours; not enough time for group this size to give input
- Facilitated and moved along very well – good idea

**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.**

- Orientation/training of adjunct faculty
- Consider condensing/shortening some of 15 week courses to 7-8 weeks or meeting 2x/wk versus 3x/wk
- Systemized and mandatory training to develop/implement distance learning courses
- Study skills/student orientation and computer course should be mandatory at the beginning of the semester
- Great resource – Hall Assoc. Assistance & Employment Center
- Students need improved counseling specific to their needs not just general studies advising