

Phi Theta Kappa Update

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Hello Dr. Scroggins,

Thank you again for meeting with us recently. We enjoyed talking to you and hearing your ideas for how we can help the college with our Phi Theta Kappa College Project.

PTK has decided that we would like to pursue your first option of collaborating with the various academic support centers on campus (e.g., Learning Resource Center, Speech and Science Center, TERC, and Stem Center). We hope to provide a student voice for the transition to online tutoring. We will meet with the directors of each center to see what is most needed. We have already met with the TERC and some ideas include making short videos that would help students navigate those services and a short infomercial with testimonials to encourage students to utilize this service. In addition, we will be conducting a survey to learn what barriers students may be facing when utilizing these services. We also have scheduled meetings with the STEM center and the SSSC so we have hit the ground running!

I also wanted to provide an update on what we accomplished last year when we worked on the Food Insecurity issue on campus. We worked closely with the Homelessness Basic Resource Committee (HBRC) and attended their monthly meetings. We collaborated on the Mountie Food Pantries, and we created and conducted surveys to assess students' knowledge of as well as barriers to utilizing services on campus. We received data from over 400 students, and discovered the following pieces of information which we shared with the HBRC:

- Students obtained most of their knowledge of food pantries from the portal (34%), from other students (28%), from flyers (27%), and from student emails received (10%). Walk by was only 1% so clearly they had learned about it in advance.
- The services students had heard the most about were CalFresh (69%) and Mountie Fresh Food Pantry (70%). They had also heard of the local food banks off campus (18%).
- In terms of utilization, they utilized the food pantries (69%) the most followed by CalFresh (39%) and local food banks (13%). Only 3 students (1.7%) indicated that they didn't utilize any services.
- Students requested that food resources on campus be placed in the following locations: Student Life area (60%), Library (50%), Health Center (35%).
- In terms of barriers, the most common barriers were the Infrequency of food pantry and embarrassment/shame about using services.
- The preferences for food items was pretty evenly spread between canned goods, protein based items like peanut butter, snacks (cookies, chips, etc), and can openers and other food related tools.

Approximately half of those surveyed mentioned that they were interested in participating in a focus group on the topic of food insecurity. We were interested in helping to conduct that focus group, but the HBRC let us know that they would not need our help at this time given the current pandemic. It was a pleasure to work with them so closely, and we appreciated the opportunity!

Thank you again for your time and support of PTK!

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