TANTALIZING TEA AND TIDBITS

7/27/2011

Pilot Summary

Professional Development and Title III partnered to offer faculty and staff collaboration events this summer. Meetings were intended to bridge the divide between the academic and student services divisions.

Tantalizing Tea and Tidbits

PILOT SUMMARY

WHO? WHAT? AND WHEN?

Tantalizing Tea and Tidbits was a summertime professional development series offered to faculty and staff beginning on June 2nd, 2011 and ending on July 14th, 2011. The meetings were attended by 21 people. Due to the nature of the summer session, the majority (13) of those who attended were primarily staff members. Attendees were provided with donated baked goods from Jack's Bakery and beverages provided by Jo Schwader in Professional Development. In addition to the refreshments, participants were also given a list of conversation starters designed to facilitate discussion centering on changes occurring around the campus. Conversation starters included the following questions:

- What is advising doing differently?
- What more do you want to know about your students?
- How is financial aid being learner-centered?
- When communicating changes, what is the best method to do so?
- What does Veteran Services provide?
- What does faculty advising look like?
- What do students do all day in new student orientation?
- What does a typical week for faculty look like?

SATISFACTION SURVEY

Tantalizing Tea and Tidbits participants were emailed a Zoomerang survey link. The survey asked the following questions:

1. On a scale of 1 to five, with five being the highest, please rate the constructiveness of the conversation.
2. On a scale of 1 to 5, with five being the highest, please rate your satisfaction with the snacks and drinks provided.
3. Overall, are you satisfied with your 'Tantalizing Tea and Tidbits' experience?
4. Please provide us with any additional comments you have regarding your experience and/or suggestions to improve it.

Nine out of the 21 participants (43%) responded to the satisfaction survey. Results were overwhelmingly positive. In response to the first question, 67% of respondents felt that the constructiveness of the conversation was excellent. Thirty-three percent reported that it was good. No respondents felt that the constructiveness of the conversation was poor, fair, or neutral.

Participants also approved of the snacks and drinks provided. Eighty-seven percent rated them as being either good or excellent, while only 11% felt neutrally toward them.

Overall, **100%** of respondents reported that they were satisfied with their Tantalizing Tea and Tidbits experience. The following comments were shared:

- 'There was positive interaction. Clearly, the attendees were relaxed and felt comfortable expressing their views about the topics discussed. I suspect it had a lot to do with the atmosphere of respect and caring created by Jo.'
- 'I believe it was wonderful! We visited about many things on campus.'
- 'I believe this is a wonderful partnership to facilitate the communication between various parts of the college.'
- 'Do it again!'
- 'Thank you for the invitation, it was a great experience.'
- 'It was a great way to put a face with a name! Thank you!'
- 'We did get quite off topic, but it was still a good conversation and I believe that the participants will now be more comfortable to go to each other, even for work related issues.'

WHAT'S NEXT?

Given the positive results of this project, another installment of the series is in planning to be offered during the 2011 fall semester. Hopefully, more marketing and the sharing of their positive experiences by participants with their colleagues will increase participation in the future.