

R.A.C.E. to the Finish!

The T.A. Lawson State Community College Quality Enhancement Plan “**R.A.C.E to the Finish!**” focuses on students’ success and achievement by intentionally developing, implementing and engaging students in processes and activities that directly align with student success and completion. “**R.A.C.E to the Finish!**” is a college-wide initiative focused on the four primary components identified as impacting student learning and success at Lawson State: **Retention, Advising, Completion and Engagement.**



A proactive and strategic approach to how the institution advises and engages student learners throughout their enrollment will positively impact retention, completion, engagement and ultimately promote student success. The strategic approach of the QEP involves **four targeted initiatives** which serve to promote and support campus-wide student success. The overarching plan includes: **1.)** changing the College’s decentralized advising model to a shared-split advising model; **2.)** creating and operating of a centralized Advising Center; **3.** identifying faculty and staff to serve as Master Advisors; and **4.)** integrating of professional advising staff and personnel to maintain and oversee the overarching initiatives, procedures and activities identified as supporting completion, retention and student engagement. Each of the four targeted initiatives of the QEP are highlighted below:

Campus Switch to a Proactive Shared-Split Advising Model: The adoption and implementation of a shared-split advising model has been identified as a key targeted initiative in “**R.A.C.E to the Finish!**”. A shared-split advising model as defined by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) is an advising process in which designated advisors meet with students in a central administrative unit while faculty advise students in the academic department of their major discipline. The development of institution-wide advising practices and procedures will allow for consistency in the advisement process across the college and throughout various disciplines.

Establishment of the R.A.C.E Centralized Advising Center: A centralized advising location is a primary aspect of a shared advising model. The R.A.C.E Advising Center will serve as a central location across both campuses where student learners can frequent to discuss degree mapping, academic planning, major exploration, and general academic policy and procedural questions. Additionally, students will be able to take advantage of targeted workshops and seminars in areas such as goal setting, time management, study skills, note taking, test **preparation and more.**

Acquiring R.A.C.E Master Advisors: The R.A.C.E Master Advisors (faculty and staff) will serve as the driving catalyst for all the activities and initiatives comprised in the R.A.C.E centralized advising locations. These specially trained individuals will hold weekly office hours in the Advising Center locations to provide additional advising support and services to students. These select individuals will also serve as the advising ambassadors on campus, sharing best practices, attending nationally recognized trainings and professional development activities, and facilitating advisement-based trainings throughout the campus.

Installing R.A.C.E Advising Staff Personnel: This R.A.C.E initiative intends to increase the number of professional staff who will solely focus on providing academic advisement, targeted tracking, and assessing student retention and persistence trends. The identified staff persons will be responsible for the development of the advising manual; training of the R.A.C.E Master Advisors; training of faculty advisors; maintaining relevant professional memberships; chairing the advisor leadership consortium; and providing campus-wide advising materials and resources. In addition, these individuals will be tasked with working within and between Academic and Student Services divisions to create clear pathways for student success and completion.

Contact: Dorian Waluyn, Director of Admissions & Enrollment Management, dwaluyn@lawsonstate.edu