



Title III Project
Montgomery Campus
“Strengthening Institutions Project”

Year One Summary

October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

“Creating a Central Environment of Support for Student Success”

A Note from the Title III Project Director:

Upon the beginning of my adventure as the Title III Project Director at Troy University Montgomery Campus, Dr. Sharon Everhardt had overseen the implementation of the project in the beginning months of the first grant year. Due to budget revisions needing to be completed, much of the work was put on hold, as well as waiting for the arrival of the new Title III Project Director. Overall, we made great progress in the first year of the grant. There were some challenges along the way but we were able to find solutions to keep us on track for success. I am looking forward to all that is to come with the Title III Project and the positive impacts that this project will have on Troy University.

Best,
Bre Gentry

Successes:

1. Renovations began in early 2021 on the 3rd floor of Rosa Parks Museum and by Summer of 2021, the walls were painted and new carpet installed.
2. The Title III Project Director (Bre Gentry-began March 8, 2021) and the Title III Project Coordinator (Danyal Jones-began April 1, 2021) were hired in Spring 2021.
3. The Title III Project Manual was developed and implemented to allow for success with managing the project.
4. A part-time Student Intervention Coach was hired in Summer 2021.
5. Budget revisions were completed and approved by the U.S. Department of Education.
6. The Center for Student Success advisors and retention personnel attended the NACADA Virtual Regional Conference in Spring 2021.
7. The five Title III Grant Committees were established in May 2021 to aid in the success of the project. (Grant Planning Committee, Advising Committee, Care Teams Committee, Financial Literacy Advisory Committee, and the Workforce Development Committee)
8. Two NACADA Consultants virtually evaluated advising at Troy University.
9. Mrs. Kay Floyd completed the first external evaluation of the Title III Project.

Challenges:

1. Longer lead times on many orders including technology (computers and laptops), workstation pieces, and contracting work. This has pushed our completion time back for moving the CSS staff to the new CSS space.
2. There was difficulty obtaining all paperwork needed from Office of Sponsored Programs to have the Title III Project Director changed from Dr. Sharon Everhardt to Mrs. Bre Gentry.
3. The newly hired part-time Student Intervention Coach resigned from her position. This caused us to be without a mental health counselor and re-post the position for a new hire.
4. The Title III Project Director found a large discrepancy in the budget for personnel benefits. It showed a shortage every year of the grant. This was resolved by modifying the budget.
5. The Troy Purchasing Department required the Title III Project to be bid for the contracting work. This caused a delay in obtaining contractors and beginning work. A few months later, the Title III Project Director was notified that there was a mistake and this project did not have to be bid out. This caused loss of funds in advertising and loss of time to complete renovations.
6. Due to the bidding process and obtaining updated quotes, the costs of renovation work was higher than originally budgeted.
7. Due to the small amount of work needed in the renovated area, it was difficult to find contractors.

Data:

| <u>Objective/Goal</u> | <u>Baseline %</u> | <u>Year 1 Target</u> | <u>Year 1 Actual</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Objective 1: Increase to 55% the retention of Troy-Montgomery first-time, full-time students. | 46.3% | 47.0% | 75.8% | This percentage is the retention rate of first-time, full-time students from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020. Data for Fall 2020 to Fall 2021 will be retrieved by December 2021. <i>**This percentage is well above our target goal but this is for the year prior to grant award. (Data retrieved from Troy IRPE)</i> |
| Objective 2: Decrease failure rates of Troy-Montgomery's first-time entering students in developmental math courses to 20%. | 27.5% | 26.0% | 17.6% | This percentage is from Fall 2020 of all Troy-Montgomery first-time, full-time students who failed developmental math courses. Data for Fall 2021 will be retrieved in January 2022. <i>**This improved our target goal for year one. (Data retrieved from Troy IRPE)</i> |
| Objective 3: Increase six-year graduation rates of Troy-Montgomery students to 19%. | 12.3% | Measured in Years 4-5 | N/A | N/A |
| Objective 4: Increase percentage of faculty advisors trained in best practices to 95%. | 0.0% | 20.0% | N/A | Not obtained in Year One. We are working on developing assessment of best practices in faculty advising. |

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| <p>Objective 5: Increase percentage of Troy-Montgomery students who rate academic advising as "excellent" to 52%, as determined by the Montgomery Student Survey.</p> | 42.6% | 43.0% | 37.0% | <p>This percentage shows the percentage of students that rated overall advising as "excellent" according to the Montgomery Campus Student Survey. We did not reach our goal in year one but are striving to reach our goal for year two. During the first year of the project, the Title III Project Director was not hired until March 2021, which delayed beginning the project. Many of the programs to be implemented in the Center for Student Success that will help improve advising was not done prior to this survey administered in April 2021. (Data retrieved from Montgomery Campus Student Survey 2021)</p> |
| <p>Objective 6: Increase percentage of Troy-Montgomery students who rate overall services/support as "excellent" to 45%, as determined by the Montgomery Student Survey.</p> | 35.2% | 37.0% | 26.8% | <p>This percentage shows the percentage of students that rated overall services/support as "excellent" according to the Montgomery Campus Student Survey. We did not reach our goal in year one but are striving to reach our goal for year two. During the first year of the project, the Title III Project Director was not hired until March 2021, which delayed beginning the project. Many of the programs to be implemented in the Center for Student Success that will help improve services/support was not done prior to this survey administered in April 2021. (Data retrieved from Montgomery Campus Student Survey 2021)</p> |
| <p>Objective 7: Increase functional student success space by at least 7,500 sf.</p> | 2,189 | 1,875 | 6,464 | <p>This is the total amount of square footage in the new space before the installation of the walls/workstations. Due to the improved quality of space and layout, the new square footage is sufficient for the mission of the Center for Student Success.</p> |

External Evaluation:

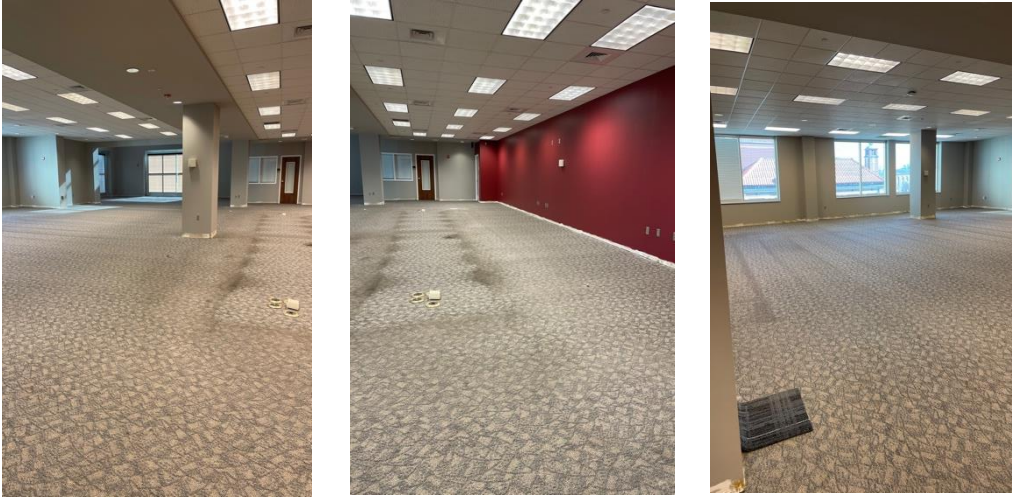
Kay Floyd Consulting Group conducted the external evaluation of the project for year one of the grant cycle. Overall, the evaluation showed the Title III Project on a path toward success. The Troy University Title III Project was given five recommendations from Kay Floyd Consulting Group through the external evaluation report.

1. Develop a plan to promote the Center for Student Success.
2. Design/administer a Center for Student Success satisfaction survey and analyze data/usage.
3. Communicate project information, available resources, and successes.
4. Monitor implementation of NACADA Report Recommendations.
5. Build capacity for successful project management.

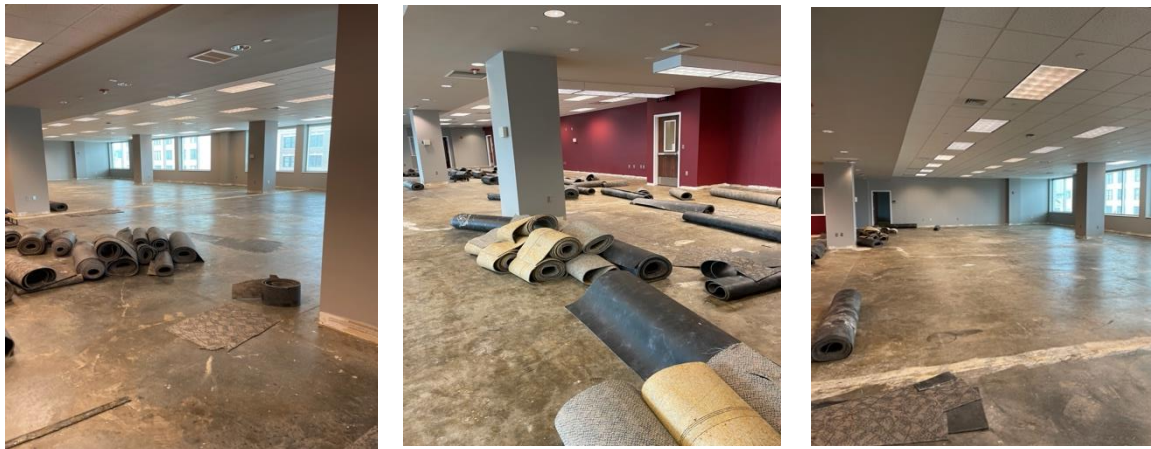
“Throughout the first year of the grant, Troy-Montgomery has demonstrated the ability to assess challenges and identify opportunities to move the project forward” (Kay Floyd Consulting Group External Report, p. 14).

Center for Student Success Renovations:

First Stage - Walls Painted



Second Stage - Old Carpet Removed



Third Stage - New Carpet Installed

