

Midlands Technical College
Seeks Student Input
By Sandi Oliver, Vice President for Student Development



Midlands Technical College continuously seeks to improve programs and services for our students. We value student input, and often seek student ideas through surveys, end-of-class evaluations and focus groups. During the period from April 7, 2008 through April 18, 2008, students in randomly selected course sections will be surveyed on the *Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)*. The CCSSE is designed specifically for students at two-year colleges. The purpose of the survey is to assess student responses to a wide range of instructional and out-of-class experiences. We will use the CCSSE information for improvement and compare MTC student responses to the responses of two-year college students across the nation. We value your feedback, so be sure to participate!

Student input has played an important role in college initiatives. Below is a partial listing of program and service enhancements to which students have contributed:

- ◆ Formulation of the college's strategic plan
- ◆ Expansion of online services, web-based forms and e-communications.
- ◆ Creation of an Online Student Orientation and an online student newspaper (*the Pony Express*) for students to reference any time, from anywhere.
- ◆ MTCVNN information displays in high traffic areas on Airport and Beltline Campuses, to keep students aware of campus news
- ◆ Alternative course offerings for many courses (online, evening, weekend, mini-sessions)
- ◆ "ASK MTC", an automated response system where students can submit questions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and receive automated responses. More detailed responses are provided the next business day, if needed.
- ◆ Web-based Student Employment Services resources, including online job openings, employer information and reference materials on resumes and interviews

- ◆ Expanded evening and weekend hours for the Library, Academic Success Centers and Student Assessment Centers.
- ◆ Addition of Online Services Centers on Airport and Beltline Campuses, where students can receive assistance with a wide array of online services, from registration and class searches to completion of online forms and career interest assessments.
- ◆ Upgrades to signage and campus lighting
- ◆ Surveillance cameras and additional call boxes to enhance campus security
- ◆ Additional parking spaces on Beltline and Airport Campuses
- ◆ Student Financial Services enhancements, to include e-communications, online document tracking, award status checks and award letters, online loan counseling, web-based scholarship searches
- ◆ Addition of credit courses on the Harbison Campus to better serve students in the Northwest area of the Midlands, and the addition of a new campus in Batesburg-Leesville. Credit offerings are also planned for the Northeast Campus in the next several years.
- ◆ Expansion of student honors and leadership opportunities, such as Phi Theta Kappa, the National Vocational Honor Society and a new student leadership course, IDS 201
- ◆ Additional student activities to support health and wellness, cultural awareness, community service, and leadership development.
- ◆ Implementation of the SOAR program through Department of Education Title III funds to increase the success rates of students who start MTC in developmental courses, and the HealthTracks Program through a Department of Labor grant to increase health career opportunities for MTC students.

These are just a few areas where student input has been helpful in college planning. Overall, most students feel that MTC provides them with a positive college experience. The most recent survey of college graduates revealed that 95.8 percent of graduates would recommend MTC to family and others. We want to continue to provide students with meaningful education and supportive services. Your feedback will help us to do this.

If *The Community College Survey of Student Engagement* is offered in one of your classes, please complete it. We look forward to hearing from you!