Early Alert:
A Faculty-Based Academic Intervention Pilot Program
School of Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts
University of California, Merced

Vincent Tinto, considered by some to be the foremost expert on college student retention, has identified several factors in students dropping or "stopping" out of the university including academic difficulty, adjustment problems, lack of clear academic and career goals, uncertainty, lack of commitment, poor integration with the college community, incongruence and isolation. Consequently, he states, retention can be highly affected by enhancing student interaction with campus personnel. *(Increasing Student Retention, 1987)*

In an effort to address some of these academic and personal needs, SSHA Advising will pilot an Early Alert program for Fall 2006. The goal of the program is to promote student persistence and promote acquisition of the skills necessary for college success. The program is designed to provide faculty and staff opportunities to contribute to retention and help UC Merced students by assisting with early detection and intervention of students who are doing poorly in class, frequently absent or experiencing other problems that may otherwise affect their academic performance.

SSHA faculty members will be provided Early Alert Referral forms at the beginning of the semester (attached and also found the SSHA Faculty Handbook). Such forms will also be available in the advising office and in the COB second floor mail room. Faculty will be able to use the forms to refer any student, regardless of major, for a consultation with an academic advisor. Completed forms can be placed in the locked drop box located in the COB second floor mail room. Once the referral form is received, the student will be contacted by SSHA Advising and asked to make an appointment. Students will be given a summary of the concerns from the Referral form, but will not receive a copy of the actual form; this ensures confidentiality for the referring faculty member. After a conversation with the student, the advisor will make appropriate recommendations and referrals. Such recommendations will be documented on the Referral Follow-Up Form (attached) and, if appropriate, forwarded to the appropriate academic advisor for inclusion in the student's advising file. SSHA Advising will make every effort to collaborate with other School advisors and the Student Advising and Learning Center (SALC) to ensure students are

given access to resources necessary for them to succeed including but not limited to tutoring and personal counseling..

For confidentiality purposes, faculty follow-up inquiries on referrals will be upon consent of the student. SSHA Advising will confirm that the student has been seen, but cannot report the outcome of the meeting without the student's written consent as indicated by his or her signature on the Referral Follow-Up Form.

Please note that this program is not intended to replace faculty-student interactions. The most effective way to get through to a student is by faculty-initiated contact. However, The Early Alert program is another tool for promoting students success at UC Merced.

For more information on Early Alert Programs at other campuses across the country, please visit the links below:

http://www.citruscollege.edu/counsel/erlyalrt/

http://www.ccac.edu/default.aspx?id=147297

https://ltc.cr.duq.edu/lsc/

Early Alert Program Referral Form

Date: _____

Student Name: _____ UCM ID#: _____

Course: _____ Instructor: _____

Instructor's Name: _____ Email: _____

Do you wish to be identified to the student above? ____ yes ____ no

Please check any statements that, in your judgment, describe this student:

- ☐ Student has never attended class
- ☐ Lacks essential skills necessary to complete this course successfully (Please describe)

- ☐ Excessive absences/tardiness
- ☐ Does not complete reading and/or homework assignments
- ☐ Struggles to keep pace with the class
- ☐ Low quiz/test scores
- ☐ Comments of concern from other students
- ☐ Personal knowledge of personal or family difficulties
- ☐ Change in demeanor which might include anxiety, aggression or depression (Please describe)

- ☐ Drastic changes in appearance
- ☐ Exhibits poor attitude and/or disruptive classroom behavior

Additional Comments:

Thank you for caring about our students! Please return this form to SSHA Advising.

AK 9/11/06

Early Alert Program Referral Follow-Up Form

Date: _____

Student Name: _____ UCM ID#: _____

Advisor: _____

Summary of Concerns:

Reasons for Difficulty:

Recommendations/Solutions:

_____

I understand that this information will not be shared with any other party other than my academic advisors without my written permission. However, in an effort to take responsibility for myself, I will consider following the recommendations/solutions listed above.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

AK 9/11/06