

## **Cal Poly Partners Program Assessment Overview 2007-08**

The Partners Program at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, is a recruitment and access feeder program which collaborates with a select number of high schools throughout the state of California. The university has established formal partnerships with these high schools in an effort to help their graduates who are admitted to Cal Poly achieve their academic goals.

The Connections for Academic Success program (CAS) collaborates with the Admissions Office, University Housing, and the College Advising Centers, faculty & staff to help students make a successful transition from high school to Cal Poly and support them as they make progress towards their college degree.

Program objectives include making certain the Partner students:

- Receive academic advising; are familiar with academic policies and procedures;
- Have an opportunity to determine if they have selected the right major;
- Are aware of resources that offer group study opportunities and one-on-one tutoring;
- Obtain information about financial aid and related resources.

Email serves as the program's main method of communicating with students via quarterly newsletters and individual emails, as well as phone contact.

During the 2007-2008 academic year, in addition to pre-enrollment advising, the Partners Program collaborated with Career Services in offering a "Confirming Your Major" workshop. Additionally, a money management workshop was coordinated for Partner students, which was facilitated by a Cal Poly Alum who is an Equity and Mortgage Planner. Quarterly meetings were initiated with Partners Program representatives from the colleges and departments to strategize how this group can collaborate to support the retention for Partner students.

One of the means of assessing Partner's Program efforts is to track the academic progress of the Partner students. The assessment data for 2007-2008 is based on the Cal Poly Cumulative grade point averages for all enrolled Partner students (2001-2007 cohorts) at the end of Spring Quarter 2008. The number of Partner Schools was expanded to 182 with the 2008 cohort. 2007-08 was be the first year with data for students from all 182 Partner schools and will serve as a benchmark for comparisons in future years. The goal is to see an improvement in the number of students in good academic standing (GPA above 2.0) and the overall retention rate.

Points of Interests regarding 2007-2008 Data:

- 252 of the total 651 students are College of Engineering majors (38%)
- 34 of the 252 College of Engineering majors have a Cal Poly Cumulative GPA below 2.0 (11.4%). All of the other colleges have fewer than 10 students with a Cal Poly Cumulative GPA below 2.0