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**Freshman Lost on Campus – Meeting First Year Needs in One Package**

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INTRODUCTION

Student Success @ Limestone College

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Randy Nichols, Chair/Assistant Professor and Department of Communications and Interdisciplinary Studies, was asked to devise a method to enhance the freshman experience at Limestone College. All freshmen at Limestone College are required to take a first-year interdisciplinary course in their first semester. Dr. Nichols asked the library to write a Web page that would store all the information a first-year student would need to succeed during their freshman year at Limestone College. The freshmen ID 100 Academic Library and ID 200 Student Transition courses are now centered on the Student Success library guide.

We began brainstorming the summer semester of 2013, preparing to go live in the fall semester (same year). We decided to use Springshare’s LibGuides to develop the Student Success guide because of its user-friendly environment and capabilities to use HTML and embed video scripts, unlike the College Web pages that were controlled by one department on campus. We first began modeling the Student Success site after the student orientation schedule already in place. We met with each department – Registrar, Financial Aid, Library, Testing Center, Student Services, and asked each department to list their ideas, links and resources to be added to the Student Success guide. These resources included highlighted page titles, links, scripts, production ideas, text, facts, and graphics.

We began scheduling video filming with outside resources like the local churches, Gaffney Visitor Center, City Hall, Commerce, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army, Historical Preservation Society, Boys and Girls Club. These videos would give our students a visual tour of local resources.

RESULTS

METHODS

- Idea began as a basic Web page
- Web pages had to be approved by too many chains of commands
- Developed into a Library Guide
- The guide helped compile information together
- Departments on Campus contacted
- Vital information for freshmen from each department added to the guide
- Link consistency
- Links always in the same location and links to campus security on each page
- Instant Access to Surveys
- Higher percentage rate of surveys completion from links located in the Student Success guide vs. survey links sent to their email
- Modified after the online orientation schedule
- A paper copy totaling 18 pages of information that was unorganized and students were unable to determine links to the resources
- Virtual and Interactive Videos added
- Visual guides and interactive maps with videos to assist visual learners

RESULTS

Student Success @ Limestone College

- Welcome
  - Video from the President of the College
  - Links to Student Handbook & Academic Catalog
  - Check in Resources
  - Printing & Copying on campus
  - Student Kiosk (for username and password)
  - Living @ Limestone
  - Wireless Access Instructions
  - History of Limestone College
  - Online Forms (Library, Registrar, Extended Campus)
  - Exam Schedules
  - Email Instructions
  - Student Directions
  - FAQs
  - Useful Numbers
  - Campus Safety
  - Campus Nurse and Counselor

Student Success @ Limestone College

- Around Campus
  - Virtual Interactive Map of Campus
  - Links to Student Handbook & Academic Catalog
  - Check in Resources
  - Printing & Copying on campus
  - FAQs
  - Campus Safety

For additional information please contact:

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