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

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INTRODUCTION

TITLE: 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 Freshmen 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 Inquiry 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 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, Student 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 YMCA Center, City Hall, Congaree Battlefield, Chamber of Commerce, Mauls on Wheels, Salvation Army, Historical Preservation Society, Boys and Girls Club. These videos would give our students a visual tour of the local area. We also decided to include our Digital Team Library, Blackboard, Academic Inquiry, Academic Inquiry Workshop, and Library Services Librarian team to create an electronic library guide.

OBJECTIVES

• Centralize information to ensure success of Freshmen at Limestone college
• How to read and digest
• All about Freshmen
• All aboutRegistrar
• How to forward email
• List of events, activities on and off-campus
• Interactive maps of local churches, campus buildings
• Grad plan
• Survey
• Timing and instructions/links
• Registration links to Blackboard, LC Portal, Email
• Exam Schedules
• Campus & study guides
• Links to online forms, catalog, and student handbook

METHODS

★ Idea began as a basic Web page
★ Web pages led to be approved by too many chairs of commands
★ Developed into a Library Guide
★ The Library held complete 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.
★ Visual 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)
• Limestone
• Wireless Access Instructions
• History of Limestone College
• Online Forms (Library, Registrar, Extended Campus)
• Exam Schedules
• Email Instructions
• Portal Directions
• FAQ’s
• Useful Numbers
• Campus Safety
• Campus Nurse and Counselor

Link to Student Success @ Limestone College Guide added to Library homepage and main Limestone College marketing web page

ROUTES

Student Success @ Limestone College

-around Campus
• Through link Virtual Interactive map of campus
• Links to Student Handbook & Academic Catalog
• Check in Resources
• Printing & Copying on campus
• FAQ’s
• Campus Safety

For additional information please contact:
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