Pathway to Success: One Book One College

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Target Audience: Our audience consisted of students who were previously academically dismissed from the university.

Category of Best Practice (Assessment, Employer Relations, Job Descriptions, Learning Outcomes, Marketing, Student Services, Training , Workshops/Presentations): Assessment, Learning Outcomes, Student Services

Supplies/Resources Needed: This program requires few funding expenditures. Utilized resources included the time and talent of two career services professionals.

Additional Materials: *Hole in the Head: A Life Revealed (*Each student is required to purchase this volume to complete programmatic requirements*)*

 Brief Description: The semester long program works with academically dismissed students who have previously displayed poor academic performance. After being placed on academic probation for two consecutive semesters, students are academically dismissed from VU. To re-enroll, students are expected to re-apply through the Admissions Office. Following this, an Academic Appeals Committee appointed by the Dean of Students then determines if the prospective student is allowed to return to the university. Upon being readmitted, students are required to attend a series of five mandatory workshops facilitated by the Center for Career & Employer Relations. The sequence of meetings is aimed at assisting the student in identifying what behaviors/actions contributed to his/her unsatisfactory academic performance, while simultaneously empowering, encouraging, and equipping the student with the necessary attitude, information, and support systems to attain a college degree. To support this important objective, students will purchase and read a book. *Hole in the Head: A Life Revealed* has been selected as the volume for this school year. The book provides numerous examples of life lessons that traverse a variety of disciplines. Due to its uplifting and meaningful content, it is our hope that students will apply its messages to their own lives. The educational lessons within the book serve as the cornerstone of the program. Over the course of the semester, the reading is divided into three separate sections to ensure students have adequate time to complete required assignments. After finishing each reading, students are encouraged to share their ideas and thoughts through a one page reflection paper. Through this process, students further develop writing abilities, critical thinking skills, and analytical expression. Additionally, students gain an increased sense of ownership and accountability for their actions and successes. At the conclusion of the program, students who complete all established requirements will be entitled to a $100.00 Pathway to Success: One Book One Program Scholarship.

Successes/Outcomes: Garnered data from the 2013-2014 suggests a 63 percent retention rate for students who participated in the program. This figure was determined by averaging the fall and spring success rates of enrollees.

Other Relevant Information: For further information, contact Rick Coleman at (812) 888-4280.