



December 13, 2016

TO: Bill Loker, Dean of Undergraduate Education
Drew Calandrella, Vice President for Student Affairs
Mike Ward, Interim Provost
Barbara Fortin, Associate Vice President, Enrollment

FROM: Gary McMahon, Director-Chico Student Success Center

RE: REACH – Academic Success Coaches (ASC)

This proposal builds upon the REACH peer mentoring program for first year students. It is focused upon second and third year males, particularly first-generation and students of color (SOC). The REACH model has proven to be successful in terms of first year academic success and persistence rates.

- The **2014** REACH cohort consisted of 161 students participating for an entire year in REACH. For that cohort, the 2nd year persistence rate is 83%. This compares favorably to the university 2nd year persistence rate of 74% for all first time freshmen in 2014.
- The 2015 REACH cohort consisted of 191 students participating for an entire year in REACH. For that cohort, the first year persistence rate is 91%. The university first year persistence rate is 85% for all first time freshmen enrolled in 2015.

The pilot REACH-ASC initiative will build upon the assessment findings of REACH while extending REACH beyond a first year experience program. It will support students with the opportunity to re-discover the values that led them to the opportunity of college, but which might have been lost when transitioning to college. Four university athletic coaches/teachers will be asked to become more deeply engaged in our campus student success efforts as they bring their theoretical understanding and practical experience helping students transition to new phases in their lives including, but not limited to, a lack of participation in formal athletic competition. This process of transition and change can often lead to difficult adjustments in “self-perception, the social environment, and emotions and relationships.” (Athletic Insight, The Online Journal of Sport Psychology, *Transitioning Out of Sports*, <http://www.athleticinsight.com/Vol13Iss2/Feature.htm>).

Through a collaborative effort with the LDRS 345 course, Academic Leadership, students will be assigned into peer mentor-led hubs of 10 students with one athletic coach/teacher (ASC) assigned to each hub. Similar to the REACH model, the athletic coach/teacher will regularly interact with the students in an effort to reinforce those behaviors that creates a successful student. John Wooden’s Pyramid of Success model closely reflects this proposal’s philosophy of student development (see <http://www.coachwooden.com/pyramid-of-success>).

Felipe Restrepo, Men’s Soccer Head Coach, has done extensive work in providing innovative solutions for success in family, community, and career. He has developed a positive framework to inspire each student member to create a “better version of their self.” He has developed a constructivist approach with a series of group activities where members explore



“ individual growth through goal setting, team building, and leadership.” I would seek Coach Restrepo’s participation as an integral part of the REACH-ASC pilot especially considering his doctorate research in college transition and self-identity.

REACH-Academic Success Coach Facilitator \$6,000

- The facilitator will teach the LDRS 345 with REACH-ASC study hall and oversee mentor meetings, special events and activities including a field trip to San Francisco, and collecting assessment data. The facilitator would work with the guidance of the director of the Chico Student Success Center.

3 Academic Success Coaches (Athletic Coach/Teacher Stipend) \$4,500

- The ASC will be asked to meet once a week with their 10 students in weekly hub study hall and to meet individually with each student, and the peer mentor, assigned to their group. The purpose of these meetings are to inspire the students to a deeper dedication to their academic success by using the same teambuilding and team preparation values that are used to create successful teams.

3 Peer Mentor Salaries \$7,000

- Each hub will be assigned a peer mentor who is currently involved or was involved in college athletics. The peer mentor will organize and lead the weekly study halls along with staying current with the challenges each student faces during the semester. The peer mentor will meet regularly with an ASC.

Field Trip \$6,000

- All ASC participants will be invited to a spring field trip to San Francisco to provide exposure to STEM fields, Sports Management, and other career opportunities.

Monthly Social Activity \$6,000

- Similar to the REACH first year mentoring initiative, each hub will participate in a monthly social activity to be determined by the REACH-ASC facilitator and the director of the Chico Student Success Center. Through 3 years of assessments, this has proven to be an effective retention strategy.

Operating Expense \$ 0.00

- To be paid for by the Chico Student Success Center

Chico Student Success Center SSP III support \$ 0.00

- The Chico Student Success Center will assign a professional staff member with extensive experience supporting the enrollment of students, assigning study hall times, processing procurement items, and organizing large events in order to support the REACH-ASC pilot.

REACH Graduate Student Assistants \$ 0.00

- Current graduate assistant supporting REACH will also be assigned, as needed, to support the REACH-ASC pilot.

Total Requested: **\$29,500**