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Student Development Transcript Program Proved to be Beneficial to Students

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STUDENT DEVELOPMENT TRANSCRIPT PROGRAM PROVED TO BE BENEFICIAL TO STUDENTS

The University of San Diego's Student Development Transcript Program is receiving national attention.

Tom Cosgrove, associate dean of students at USD, began this program in 1982 as a pilot study to evaluate students participation in a mentoring/transcript process.

The results from this study, which Cosgrove presented last March at the Association of College Union-International national convention, proved that the program worked. Students that participated in the program were more positive in the areas of goal setting, decision making and problem solving. A more positive attitude toward the university and more involvement in activities at the university were also apparent.

The National Leadership Development Committee, chaired by Cosgrove, has sent out an evaluation survey to all colleges and universities that are involved in a Student Development Transcript Program. This survey will help to expand the information at the Co-curricular Transcript Library, making the ideas behind a Student Development Transcript Program more accessible to all colleges and universities.

When the Student Development Transcript Program was conceived by Robert Brown at the University of Nebraska, there were three main elements.

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1. Assessment process which presents the areas the student is interested in developing.
2. Mentoring component in which a volunteer (faculty, administration, or senior student), acts as a guide to present the areas, other than academic, that are available in college life.
3. A transcript which is a record of all activities the student has been involved in throughout his/her college career.

Variations of this program developed by Brown have spread to about 25 colleges and universities. However, the program developed at USD is the first program to be used as an experimental study. When Cosgrove began this study, the project included all three elements presented by Brown, and the use of faculty, administration, and student affairs staff as mentors.

After three years, the program is still available at USD, offering freshmen students the opportunity to become more aware of their choices in academic and non-academic activities. The senior students, who serve as mentors for the program, also gain a positive experience.

For more information please contact John Nunes at 260-4682.

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