The Bronco Study Zone:
A Collaborative Initiative to Promote Positive Study Habits
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Kim Ballard, Director of Writing Center
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Introduction
• More support services and programs needed to reach university retention goals
• The Bronco Study Zone (BSZ) initially established to support dismissed/readmitted students and students on probation

Objectives
• Provide a comfortable learning environment
• Encourage development of positive study habits for at-risk students
• Support faculty through efficient management of mandatory study hours
• Provide drop-in tutoring in high-fail courses
• Improve graduation rates

First Steps
Presented idea at Provost Council Meeting
• Presented idea as last slide on a retention PowerPoint to gauge initial reaction
• Idea was positively received

Called together a first collaboration meeting
• Meeting was well-attended by advising directors, deans, Vice Provost, Director of Academic Success Programming and advisors

Space in Waldo Library was offered
• Dr. Joseph Reish, Dean of University Libraries, offered space in Waldo Library, the main library on campus

Library Staff
• Designed and donated artwork, brochures, signage and other printed material

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
• Installed software for card-swipe to track usage

Provost's Office
• Provided small initial budget

Haworth College of Business and College of Arts and Sciences
• Moved furniture, decorated space and created operational framework

Diversity and Inclusion Grant
• Won grant to support academically underprepared students
• Hired and trained 6 tutors
• Incorporated CAS Peer Coaching Program into the space
• Created dedicated website
• Expanded open hours
• Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
• Sunday 7 p.m. to midnight

Spring 2015 to End of Semester
• Will administer a faculty/staff survey
• Will run a focus group to gauge effectiveness
• Will hold college success seminars in area

Challenges
• Chris and Katie starting project while working full-time jobs
• Staffing space using volunteers-sometimes not dependable
• Creating belief in the sustainability of a grassroots effort
• Deciding on appropriate “ownership” for the space

Results and Developments
• Space designed initially for probation students but was used voluntarily by non-probation students
• Fall 2014: used over 2700 times by 615 students
• Positive anecdotal feedback and interest from faculty/students/staff
• College of Arts and Sciences decided to fund full-time manager of BSZ for 2015-16

Going Forward
• More colleges and programs requiring use of the space for structured study hours
• More collaboration is taking place across University
• Vision to expand the space with more services

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