Master’s Students Support Programs

University of North Carolina
At Greensboro
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• Public University in 16 UNC System
  – 27 doctoral programs
  – 65 master’s programs
  – 45 certificate programs

• 19,500 students
  – 3,500 graduate students
  – 16,000 undergraduate students
Highlighting Two Programs

- Programs open to master’s and doctoral degree students
  - Preparing Future Leaders (PFL)
  - Scholar’s Retreat (Thesis and Dissertation Bootcamp)
Resources for the Programs

• PFL Program
  – Graduate Assistantship for PFL
  – Funding from CGS Teagle Grant for PFL
  Assessment Modules

• Scholar’s Retreat
  – Council for Advancement of Graduate Education contribution for Scholar’s Retreat
First Program: Preparing Future Leaders

Preparing Future Faculty (PFF)  Preparing Future Professionals (PFP)
Two Overlapping Tracks in PFL

• PFF prepares students for positions in academia – community colleges or universities
  – Master’s students for community colleges
  – Ph.D. students for universities

• PFP prepares students for non-academic positions

• Workshops can be combined from both tracks
Basic Mechanisms of PFL

- Workshops designed to prepare for a teaching role in academe or career external to academe
- Series of non-credit bearing experiences
- Self paced program
- Electronic portfolio developed
- Completion registered on official university transcript
Administration of Program

- Jointly sponsored by the Graduate Schools of UNCG and NCA&T
  - Participating student must identify a mentor
  - Supervision by Deans of both universities
  - Director of the program is a graduate assistant
Contributing Partners

• The Graduate School
• Teaching and Learning Commons
• Office of Research and Economic Development
• Library
• Career Services
• Office of Planning and Assessment
• Entrepreneurship Center
• Student Affairs
• Human Resources
Content of PFF

• Designing Effective Courses
• Preparing a Syllabus
• Models of Teaching
• Managing Large and Small classes
• Feedback on Teaching
• Developing Effective Examinations
• Job Shadowing
• Use of Technology in the Classroom
• SLOs and Assessment
Assessment Training

• Student engages in four online modules on how to develop student learning outcomes and use them for improvement of instruction

• Students compete for an iPad by developing SLOs for a course and mapping it to the departmental curriculum
Examples of Assessment Modules

- PFLS.unCG.edu
Content of PFP

• Project Management
• Conflict Resolution
• Leadership Training
• Written Communication Skills
• Developing Job Descriptions
• Entrepreneurship
• Analyzing Organizations
• Running Meetings
• Developing Business Plans
Business Plan Training

• Student attends training in how to write a business plan
• After learning about business plans, students write a plan to receive feedback and compete for an iPad
Areas in Common between PFF and PFP

- Work-Life Balance
- Time Management
- Emotional Intelligence
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- Job Shadowing
- Understanding Governance
- Writing a CV or Resume
- How to Interview for a Position
Second Program:

Scholar’s Retreat
Thesis and Dissertation Bootcamp
Background

- Students achieving good grades but not finishing
- Thesis and dissertation was the barrier
- Students felt adrift
Bootcamp Activities

• Sequestered for one week during break for intensive writing
• Breakfast and lunch brought in
• Faculty advisors visit
• Discussion topics:
  – How to begin the writing process
  – Organizing the literature review
  – Innovative uses of technology
  – Time management and stress management
  – ETDs
  – Peer writing groups
• Dedicated time to write
• Meetings with faculty to review progress
Conclusion

- More master’s students enroll in PFP than do doctoral students
- PFF can be helpful to Master’s students going into CC teaching or continuing on to the Ph.D.
- Overlapping areas are helpful to both groups
- Dedicated time for writing helps master’s students get started on a thesis
Questions and Answers (after all presentations)