

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE

Direct Connection to The Illinois Commitment:

No Illinois citizen will be denied an opportunity for a college education because of financial need.

Title of Effective Practice: Joliet Junior College Scholarship Website,
<http://www.jjc.edu/FinancialAid/Scholarships/>

Name of Institution: Joliet Junior College

Brief Synopsis of the Practice:

Established simultaneously with a new web server, the Office of Student Financial Aid began a comprehensive on-line database of private scholarships based on need and/or merit in April 2003. From the site, students can download information tailored to their specific interest or major, browse for scholarships for which they might be eligible, and even download the entire *2004-2005 Scholarship Book* in .pdf format.

What is this practice's objective? What needs to be addressed?

The purpose of the website and the *2004-2005 Scholarship Book* is to provide “the community (with a) resource tool to help each student meet financial obligations and to encourage each student to obtain their educational goals.”

How does this practice achieve sustainability and/or cost-effectiveness?

By allowing students the ability to download and search for scholarships on their own, student time and energy expended is greatly reduced. Joliet Junior College achieves cost-effectiveness through reduced staff time counseling students on eligibility potential; analyzing which scholarship a student might be eligible; reduced printing and copying costs associated with printing scholarships books, information, and applications; and space issues associated with housing scholarship information.

What are the results/measurable outcomes?

The scholarship website receives about 100 hits monthly. In the 2004 fiscal year, approximately 2,500 students applied for scholarships, with about 170 receiving institutional aid. The total amount of institutionally based scholarships distributed in the 2003 fiscal year was over \$312,000. Between 1999 and 2003, the number of scholarships awarded to Joliet Junior College students has increased by 97%, from 187 to 369. The total dollar amount in scholarships awarded has risen by 181% during the same time period, with \$304,929 awarded in fiscal year 2003.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE

Direct Connection to The Illinois Commitment:

Illinois colleges and universities will continually improve productivity, cost-effectiveness, and accountability

Title of Effective Practice: Tech Prep Website, <http://www.jjctechprep.org/>

Name of Institution: Joliet Junior College

Brief Synopsis of the Practice:

On September 9, 2003, the Joliet Junior College Tech Prep website went live. The website allows students to browse or search for courses by college degree program (or occupation) and high school course; provides a calendar for students, counselors, and administrators to coordinate their activities; a central location for students to download or customize their own forms; background information about Tech Prep along with contact information; and links to participating high schools.

What is this practice's objective? What needs to be addressed?

The main purpose of the website is to increase access to the Tech Prep program in a cost-efficient manner. The advantage of a website is two-fold: it allows the student one central, consistent, and easily accessible portal to find contacts, gather information, and register for Tech Prep courses. The second advantage of the site is that it greatly reduces the amount of paperwork, extra coordination, time, and energy involved in tracking incoming students who have earned articulated credit.

How does this practice achieve sustainability and/or cost-effectiveness?

The reduced amount of time, coordination, and paperwork associated with the website greatly reduces costs and allows the Tech Prep program to strategically focus its efforts and resources on the most important operations. No longer does the Tech Prep program annually print information for high school counselors on what classes have been articulated and how to apply for college credit. Additionally, College Credit Certificates and five part forms used in the past will no longer have to be printed. The cost in maintaining the license and administering the website is a fraction of costs previously spent on printing, copying, meetings, and mailings.

What are the results/measurable outcomes?

For the 2003-2004 academic year, the first year the Tech Prep website was live, 52 students have applied for articulated credit compared to 10 for the previous year. Enrollment represents 189.5 credit hours of college credit. At \$68 tuition per credit hour, the estimated cost savings to students and their families from utilizing Tech Prep courses is projected to be nearly \$13,000. The Tech Prep program feels if it can show students they may attain college credit, students can be retained and attracted to a particular program of study.