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Report: LLC transfers continue to perform well at universities

By HERB MEEKER Staff Writer | Posted: Wednesday, August 24, 2011 5:45 am

MATTOON - Lake Land College students starting a new school year this week have a great chance of earning good grades when they someday start at universities across Illinois, based on a student transfer report.

Lake Land College transfers to Eastern, Western, Illinois State, Southern Illinois universities and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign produced an average grade point average of 3.10, based on data from the fall of 2010. This report was completed by the Office of Institutional Research at Lake Land College with academic data provided by the universities. The survey covered the academic performance of 1,622 Lake Land transfers.

"We look at this report on an annual basis and it speaks well of our college. If you can attribute these results to anyone it is the faculty and staff of this college," said Jim Hull, Lake Land College vice president of academics.

Lake Land transfer students outperformed native students - those starting as freshmen at that university - and other community college transfers except at the University of Illinois and Illinois State, where 16 and 38 former Lake Land students are enrolled.

Hull said the overall performance for Lake Land transfers is what shines through. Given that 97 percent of Lake Land transfers had higher GPA's than both other community college transfers and native students, it seems that former Lake Land students are doing very well after transferring.

Even at the U of I and Illinois State, there was an average of 90 percent of Lake Land transfers in academic good standing or its equivalent at those universities at the end of last fall semester. Out of 1,296 LLC transfers at Eastern Illinois University, 1,214 - 94 percent - were in academic good standing, which was higher than both other community college transfers and native students.

What is Lake Land's secret of success for its transfers for last year and many previous years?

Hull believes it is a rigorous curriculum taught by Lake Land instructors in many subjects.

"The rigor of our classes and the personal relationships with faculty help ease the shock of going to a larger school where students can be treated like numbers. They are ready for the difficulty of the classes and have the confidence to handle the class loads of a university," Hull said.

Another boost for Lake Land transfers is a class called "Strategies for Success," which helps them to become better college students.

"It teaches them how to study and take notes. It makes them more effective in learning. Those are skills they can carry past college. Many of our students going onto a university take that class and they appreciate how it helps them. We do try to funnel future transfers to it," Hull said.

Lake Land and Eastern have a good partnership to provide a seamless transfer of class credits. That, and

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the proximity of Eastern are some of the reasons why so many Lake Land students head to Charleston as university students.

"Proximity is part of it. And that is important to our non-traditional students seeking four-year degrees. The average age of our student body is 26 to 27 years old. So they face responsibilities with family and jobs so they can find it harder to go to faraway campuses," Hull said.

But the college takes pride in the fact that wherever its students end up, they have a tradition of success in university classrooms.

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