



Earl Paul Writes

Based on the positive reception he had on his book on college student leadership and character that came out last year, Dr. Earl Paul at Brandon decided to author some more materials that would be helpful to students and serve as resources for college personnel.

To that end, he has recently published four new booklets in soft skill areas that over the years he has either taught in the classroom or presented at seminars at various conferences.

The *How to Get What You Want Out of Life* booklet emanated from his popular seminar on motivation and goal setting. So many community college students are just starting to be exposed to this area, and the information provided lays out basic strategies in the goal-setting arena that can help encourage them to set goals and move towards their accomplishment.

For those college students who choose to get involved in formal clubs and organizations, oftentimes they are expected to facilitate meetings but have had no training in actual meeting preparation and facilitating. Oftentimes, too, they are asked to chair or participate in meetings utilizing Robert's Rules of Order. However, many students have no knowledge of the basics, so in *Conducting Great Meetings* Dr. Paul delineates basic rules, procedures, and motions pertaining to Robert's Rules that will allow them to accomplish business in a more formal meeting.

Another seminar he has presented which is always well attended focuses on interviewing tips and techniques. In the booklet, *"Knock Their Socks Off" with the Interviewing Edge*, he covers many basics that we might think students would know before going into an interview situation. However, based on experience, this is not the case, so he outlines vital points for them to know in preparing for the interview, the interview itself, after the interview, and important general considerations.

The final booklet, *Public Speaking: How You Can Be Successful*, covers basics of public speaking that Dr. Paul has learned from years of speaking himself, participating in Toastmasters and studying the subject as a side interest. Again, students in college often begin speaking in front of others, but haven't had their Introduction to Speech class yet or may need to see a synopsis of what could make them more effective and confident in their delivery.

None of the booklets can obviously be written in the depth nor detail of a textbook; however, he wrote these knowing many students today are averse to reading. The 8.5" x 5.5" booklets average 22 pages in length but are information and example rich. Also, knowing students are more "aurally based," the topics of the four booklets have been narrated and converted into MP3 downloads and CDs.

If you would like to see more information on these booklets, go to www.collegeresourcesonline.org or contact Dr. Paul at 813.253.7942.

CSTEP: Computer Science Transfer Programs

Motivated by national and local statistics showing a dramatic decrease in undergraduate and graduate enrollment in computer science, the University of South Florida (USF) together with HCC have established a series of coordinated programs designed to broaden the participation of underrepresented minority students in computer science. The programs, referred to as Computer Science Transfer Programs (CSTEP), are funded through a National Science Foundation grant.

The primary goal of CSTEP is to implement a model to systematically increase the enrollment, retention, and graduation rate of minority students in computer science. CSTEP is meant to transition students seamlessly from HCC to USF. Challenging research projects and academic courses have been implemented to provide HCC students with state-of-the-art knowledge in a wide variety of areas in computer science. CSTEP offers summer program scholarships at USF in which students enroll in classes and are exposed to research, personalized advising services, faculty mentors at USF and HCC, paid research experiences for undergraduates (REU) program at USF, a peer-tutoring program, and professional development opportunities. All of these programs are used to recruit, retain, and prepare HCC students to continue on their path toward a four-year university.



HCC student and REU Program participant, Laura Reider, explains her summer research during a poster presentation.

This past July, CSTEP wrapped up its first 16-week summer program at USF. Jeffrey Batista stated, "I'm excited about this program! Having supervision and guidance on what our next steps should be in college is great. College is a much bigger world than most students are accustomed to. It's a plus to have the support of the other students in the program and an advisor helping us along the way." For more information, please visit www.csee.usf.edu/BPC or contact Michelle Kobus, Personal Transition Services Specialist, Brandon Campus, BSSB 113, or email mkobus@hccfl.edu.

CSTEP students attended a Leadership Development Retreat at USF Riverfront Park where they learned how to communicate better with one another.



CSTEP students also learned how to work together and build trust through various outdoor activities.