I.   Opening Remarks

II.   Presentations

A. Our first presenter was Dr. Sha Wilfred. Dr. Wilfred is the Criminal Justice Online Undergraduate Program Coordinator in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice. She has been at VSU since 2005 and has been engaged in various department, college, and university service activities (i.e., online program coordinator, faculty senate, IRB, and 70/80 task force). Her most current service to VSU includes working with the John Gardner Institute's Gateways to Completion Initiative, which is designed to help institutions identify gateways (entry points) which affect students' achievement of academic success.

Dr. Wilfred's presentation included the background of the G2C initiative at VSU, some of the course innovations that were utilized in the courses that were selected for participation in the G2C initiative, the current status of the G2C initiative at VSU, and how G2C is related to student retention and success at VSU.

G2C at VSU

Sha' Wilfred
70/80 Task Force Course Innovations Subcommittee Chair

B. Our second presenter was Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Bob Smith. Dr. Smith was Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Armstrong State University in Savannah, but before that he spent nearly thirty years at Millersville University of Pennsylvania, most recently as Dean of Science and Mathematics. He has been described as a passionate teacher who believes in the ability of higher education to transform the lives of our students.

C. Our third presentation was the collaborative project by Dr. Michele Blankenship and Dr. Beatrice Potter.

Dr. Blankenship is the Director of Simulation and instructor in the Nursing Program at VSU. Recognizing her ability to both identify the problem of health literacy and to help create solutions, the Georgia Nurses Association honored S. Michele Blankenship with its Nursing Health Literacy Hero Award in 2014.

Dr. Potter is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at VSU. She is a designer, developer, and evaluator of instructional material for online, hybrid/blended, and traditional face to face programs in academic and business environments. She teaches Spanish for Professionals in the area or health, criminal justice and business where she has developed and implemented professional simulations in Second Life. She was this year's recipient of the Excellence in Online Teaching Award.

Their demonstration was an example of how beginning Core classes can develop into meaningful interdisciplinary projects: The goal for these two scholars was to advance cultural competency through simulation and to use simulation to assist students with their transition to professional and real life practices.

Core Matters
Collaboration between Nursing and Spanish for Professionals

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