

## Data Gathering

<b>Group:</b>	High School Counselors
<b>SPT Partners:</b>	Janet Tareilo and Sam Smith
<b>Date:</b>	November 12, 2014
<b>Design:</b>	Survey
<b>Participants:</b>	105
<b>Survey Responses:</b>	7

The survey was sent a total of 3 times through electronic means to high school counselors in the Region VII area. Because of the lack of responses, it appears that high school counselors may need to be a targeted population as the strategic planning for the University continues.

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### What makes SFA special or unique? (7)

- Close to home, but has an edgy urban feel that students like. Locally students here tend to take it for granted, but if you can get them to visit, and see the offerings, it is a great place to go.
- It is a 4-year university without the overwhelming confusion of a huge university. It has a beautiful campus set in the Piney Woods. It is not too far for our students to leave home and attend and then go home to visit when they get homesick. We are less than 1.5 hours away in Gladewater, Texas.
- Great town, great location, great education, more affordable than other schools.
- Location/proximity to our town...Ease of access to our students. Variety of degree programs available and cost. Admission criteria.
- It is one of the two or three independent universities (public) left in the state that is not a part of a university system (ie UT or A & M). It is 30 miles from Center which makes it a great option for students who want to attend a university, either transferring from a junior college or initial post-high school enrollment, close to home. As a result of the location, students can live at home and attend which helps make earning a degree more affordable.
- Location in relation to my area. Great admissions people...Jessica Maynard.

- Centrally located, tuition is good and small classroom size

**What could SFA do or be to encourage you to support the University? (6)**

- I feel that we do support SFA. I am open to suggestions
- We do support the university and have students attend SFA. Make sure that you send a representative to talk to our students, not just at lunch, but in a classroom. Reps usually go through our English 4 or Government/Economics classes.
- Attend our first ever college night this year.
- I have found SFA very willing to provide support to students at Center High School...when I call, they come if at all possible. Group tours (large, bringing an entire grade level) have not been done in several years because the coordinator did not seem too excited to have us come. We stopped bringing large groups (ie...bringing all juniors to the campus).
- We are in full support of SFA!
- SFA has been very supportive of what we have done and we have reciprocated

**What is one innovative idea SFA should implement? (4)**

- Offer "FREE" applications to those who apply in SEPT/OCT/NOVEMBER...for the following fall.
- I partnered with Panola College last summer to have a "Camp College" for rising seniors. The event was over two days, students spent the night in the dorm, and had great breakout sessions on preparing for college, plus fun activities arranged by the college. There have been similar programs years ago over a longer period of time, but if there is anything like this now at SFA I receive no info about it. It was a great experience and all of the participant feedback was very positive. Does SFA do this?
- I have no idea.
- A discount or fee reduction for top % of our graduating seniors

**What do students need to get from a college education/experience to be successful in life? (7)**

- Real life experiences. I support career exploration and course offerings that support careers in this area of East Texas
- Students need to learn the foundation of how to continue to the next step of their career through the classes that they have taken. But besides that, students should learn how to become more independent, become more financially knowledgeable and responsible, learn how to meet new people and how they can be successful with lots of hard work and persistence.
- Life application, many scenario type of studies throughout the course of study.
- real world experience not just classroom experience. For example- the book learning is great but sometimes NOT really what happens ON THE JOB.
- Real world connections to what they are learning. A co-worker is working on a certification and came to visit with me to do some observation and discuss what I do. She had visited with other counselors as well. One of her observations was that most of what she is learning in the program of study has nothing to do with what actually happens in a "real job". Sadly, that is true for most of the college programs of study, especially those that are deemed academic in nature.
- Life skills which I hope they've experienced/developed prior to attending college.
- More immersion of their prospective field.

**What have you not been asked that you would like to add? (1)**

- The SFA Alumni Scholarships are great for students and I understand the funding stream; however, the number of scholarship awarded seems to be fewer in number and in lesser amounts.