From the Program Director

“Ambition is the path to success. Persistence is the vehicle you arrive in.”

Bill Bradley

This edition of The Navigator is centered on the idea of “persistence.” In preparing to write my comments, I googled “persistence” and found this quote by Bill Bradley. It resonated with me and as I read a bit about Bill Bradley, I thought about how “persistence” has been embraced in my life through Bradley’s quote. Like Bradley, I too, am the product of Midwestern roots…we were both born near St. Louis, MO. I found my “path to success” filled with personal and professional ambition and a strong desire to enhance my life through my chosen “vehicle” --- that of higher education.

What “vehicle” drives your persistence? Is it one of personal completion of goals or professional goal obtainment? Are you struggling to be persistent with your education? Studies suggest that 75 to 85% of today’s higher education students voluntarily withdraw from college. Although the reasons can be exhaustive, there are 4 areas that are more common amongst online students: lack of preparation, external commitments, social isolation, and interaction with faculty and advisors. (Braxton, 1997)

If lack of preparation is a concern to you, please be sure to take advantage of our tutoring services; if external commitments are difficult, is there someone in your life who could help with these commitments? Reach out to them and allow yourself to be emotionally supported while you are in school. Are you engaged on a regular basis with one of Rio’s college advisors? Do you send emails to your instructors letting them know a bit about you? Rio can provide you with the “vehicle” to guide your path to success…let us know how to help.

Dr. Diana L. Abel
Director and Faculty
How to Be Successful: Moving to Graduation

You've completed your coursework, and now it is time to celebrate and be recognized for your accomplishments. Applying for graduation at Rio Salado College may be achieved by following a few simple steps.

1) Download the application at:  

2) Applications can be mailed, faxed, or hand delivered to the address on top of the application.

3) If a student wishes only to apply for a degree/certificate, and not participate in the commencement ceremony, only the first page needs to be submitted. If a student plans to take part in the ceremony, both pages of the application must be completed and submitted.

4) Students should submit their applications when they are near completion of their final course for their program. There is no fee to apply for graduation, only a $25.00, non-refundable fee for the cap and gown.

5) If transfer courses are required to complete a program, students should arrange to have official transcripts sent from other institutions during the final semester of the program. Official transcripts are only those sent directly from other institutions to RSC. Go to my.maricopa.edu and under “Academics” choose the drop down menu for “Other Academic” – “Official Transcript”, identifying the institution that has your records.

NOTE:
This newsletter is designed to support students who are taking coursework leading to certificates and degrees in the following disciplines:
• Early Childhood
• Family Life Education
• Career and Technical Education
• Adult Learning and Educational Leadership

Meet Your Instructor
Judith O'Brien

Children and families are my passion. I earned a Masters in Social Work and am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a certification in Reality Therapy. I have always known that I wanted to work with children and families. Thirty years of working in the school setting allowed me to follow this passion. As a School Social Worker/Counselor, I love the hundreds of children and families that I worked with in early childhood and elementary school to motivate and encourage them to do their best in school. While working in the field of education I also developed counseling programs, drug education programs and assisted in the development of a Special Needs Preschool Program. Adult education has also been an interest of mine. Teaching classes for parents, teachers and other faculty has been both rewarding and enlightening for me.

Upon retirement 5 years ago I knew I wanted to continue working in the field of education. I joined the Rio Salado Adjunct Faculty and have really enjoyed being an on-line instructor. Aside from working for Rio Salado I also coach for the Arizona Department of Education, am a behavior interventionist for two elementary school districts and work as a preschool parent liaison for a special needs preschool program. Families and children continue to be a major part of my life.

What I like about on-line learning…

The flexibility of on-line learning works well for me as I travel a lot to see my grandchildren who are the highlight of my life. (Maybe I should have had the grandchildren first since I enjoy them so much.) Not only does the flexibility of on-line learning meet my needs it also meets the needs of my students. The students I work with show both dedication and determination in completing these classes. Many of them are working, raising children besides continuing their education. It is rewarding to me to help students continue their knowledge in the fields of Early Childhood and Child and Family Studies because these fields of education have been so much a part of my life. The foundation of society is strong families and children.
What is TaskStream®?

TaskStream® is a customizable, electronic portfolio, assessment management and performance-based instruction tool. For National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation of two-year programs (of which our Early Childhood program is currently going through), specific student assignments (signature assignments) are to be evaluated based on a faculty-developed rubric associated with the NAEYC Standards addressed by each assignment.

The electronic submission of the Signature Assignments serves two purposes.

1. It serves as college accreditation data collection and a storage site, as instructors evaluate each student’s Signature Assignments in connection with NAEYC performance based outcomes. We must collect and report this data on a regular basis.

2. It provides a platform to build an electronic portfolio for EED255 for those students completing the coursework that leads to Certificate or AAS completion.

After each student submits their Signature Assignments to TaskStream®, instructional faculty use program-approved rubrics to evaluate the assignments.

If you need assistance with TaskStream®, contact your Rio Salado Instructor or the TaskStream HelpDesk at 1-800-311-5656 or help@taskstream.com.

Wise Words from the Navigator

Persistence

Success is a journey, and persistence is one of the keys to success.

Persistence is enjoying the journey that lies between where you are now and where you are going. Don’t wait for tomorrow to enjoy the rewards that you hope for. Instead, enjoy today, the person you’re becoming and the talents that you have.

Persistence is never giving up, never giving up, never giving up! It is always too soon to quit.

Persistence is going to the place where you failed before to try again.

Persistence means not dwelling on what others think. Persistent people take action and don’t make excuses. Persistent people don’t doubt and don’t play the blame game.

Persistence means that you don’t do anything for others’ approval.

Persistent people have the habit of doing things that failures do not like to do. Persistent people do not like doing them either, but their dislike is subordinated to the strength of their purpose. If you have allowed yourself to develop a habit of making excuses for doing less than your best, make a commitment to change today.

Without persistence your dreams are an illusion.

Persistent people face the jungles of life with the heart of a lion.

Persistence means flying high like an eagle in the middle of a storm.

Persistence means continuing to work hard when others have gone home.

Supporting Your Success

The Early Childhood and Human Development Undergraduate Program at Rio Salado College participate in a variety of grant and scholarship programs that support students pursuing national credentials, college certificates and degrees. Click the link below to learn more about the current grant and financial aid opportunities to support your college success!

http://www.riosalado.edu/programs/earlychildhood/grants/Pages/default.aspx
http://www.riosalado.edu/financial_aid/Pages/default.aspx
Rio Salado College is here to support your success!

Rio Salado College is here to help you become the success you want to be. Listed below are supports for you:

- Academic Advisement
- Cashier's Office
- Computer Labs
- Counseling
- Disability Resources & Services
- Financial Aid
- Helpdesks and Additional Assistance
- Library
- Testing
- Transcript Request
- Tutoring
- Veteran Affairs

What Supports Are Available at Student Services?

Rio Salado College offers a number of comprehensive student services as part of your enrollment with the College. Students are encouraged to utilize these services as part of a successful educational plan, leading you towards graduation. The ECEHD program strongly encourages students to take the time to connect with our student services department, and to take note of the opportunities that are available to you.

Please visit the following for a complete list of services: http://www.riosalado.edu/current/Pages/default.aspx

Here are just two examples of services students have at their fingertips:

Tutoring @ Rio

Rio Tutoring supplements online instruction by providing personalized support from experienced tutors who hold advanced degrees in the subject they tutor. Tutoring is offered in the following subjects: Accounting, Allied Health, Biology, Chemistry, Computers, Economics, English, ESL, Finance, Food and Nutrition, Geography, Geology, Health Care, Mathematics, Physical Science, Physics, Reading, Spanish, Statistics, and Writing for All Subjects. Students can meet with a tutor in-person at the Rio Tempe Tutoring Center, or interact with online tutors via live chat using the “smarthinking” link in RioLearn. Tutors clarify course content, assist with homework, provide feedback on written assignments, and help improve study skills. “Smart Students Use Tutors!” is our motto, and we encourage Rio students to use tutoring services so they can become confident and independent learners. For more information, go to www.riosalado.edu/tutoring or call 480-517-8247.

Online Library @ Rio

Have you visited Rio Salado’s online Library: www.riosalado.edu/library? It provides a rich source of magazine, journal, newspaper and reference databases as well as over 70,000 eBooks. To find articles on early childhood and human development, you simply login to these subscription databases using your RioLearn username and password.

Did you know that you have borrowing privileges at all ten Maricopa Community College Libraries with your Rio Salado ID? There are a number of ways to receive help with the wide array of Rio’s library resources and services. Try Ask a Librarian, our 24/7/365 chat service, or watch our brief How do I...? video tutorials. And if you’re on the go and need help with the library, call 480-517-8424 or text “riolib” to 66746 for instructions.

Other Community-based Training Options

Please join us as we welcome you to the 2011-2012 ECE Saturday Great Seminar Series. These seminars take place once a month and are offered as professional development opportunities for early care and education professionals at our Conference Center in Tempe and our Communiversity @Surprise. Each Seminar has been designed to provide participants with information, knowledge and skills that will enhance their practice in the field of early care and education. Participants will receive a Continued Education Certificate (CEU) for attending each seminar. The CEU certificate can be used to meet ADHS, DES and CDA National Credentialing training requirements.

To review the schedule and obtain the registration information for the Great Seminars please visit our web page at: http://www.riosalado.edu/programs/earlychildhood/Pages/training.aspx
The Navigator would like to recognize Dawn Rathburn on her accomplishments in the field of Early Childhood. Dawn has been in the Early Care and Education field for over 15 years. Dawn proudly states, “I have worked with children in all areas of Early Childhood, from infants to working with children with special needs to first graders. I have organized and directed many summer programs. I am currently a 4-year old teacher at Joy Christian Pre-School. I first knew I wanted to work with children when I was very young. I was a preacher’s daughter who helped out in Children’s Church. I knew from that moment on that I had a calling for my life.”

Dawn is thankful for the support and the encouragement that she received as a Protégé in the APEX project through Rio Salado College. “I started the program in January of 2010. Through the support of the APEX Project and my Coach, I was able obtain my CDA in June 2010. I am currently working on my Certification in Early Childhood and hope to continue with my educational pathway towards an A.A.S. in Early Childhood.”

Dawn is a real go-getter. Her goal is to open her own center and she is especially passionate about helping young children in disadvantage circumstances. “I am currently a mentor to children whose parents are incarcerated.” Dawn shares, “My passion is to inspire as many children as I can, with quality care. If it weren’t for the APEX project and Rio Salado College, I wouldn’t even have known my goal would be obtainable.”

The Navigator wishes to thank Dawn for her determination and dedication. We wish her much continued success as she progresses through her coursework at Rio Salado College.

Dawn Rathburn demonstrates the benefits of being a Rio Salado College APEX Protégé – she offers children and families a quality environment full of learning and fun!

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Don’t Quit!

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will.  
When the road you’re trudging seems all up hill,  
When funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest, if you must, but don’t you quit.  

Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As every one of us sometimes learns.  
And many a failure turns about,  
When he might have won had he stuck it out.  
Don’t give up though the pace seems slow –  
You may succeed with another blow.  

Success is failure turned inside out –  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt.  
And you never can tell how close you are;  
It may be near, when it seems so far.  
So stick to the fight when you’re hardest hit –  
It’s when things seem worst that YOU MUST NOT QUIT!  

- Author Unknown
How Do I Stay Motivated?

You are back on track with Rio Salado and your educational path. How do you stay motivated? How do you keep your feet to the fire? What do you do when you have one of those days where you wonder what this is all for? Here are three things that will keep your “motivation mojo” active!

Autonomy – Be Self-directed

We are motivated by things that mean the most to us, our values. Your education is a result of valuing quality of life. You stay motivated by remembering what brought you to Rio Salado. You made the autonomous decision to secure a degree, certification or better your career options. There is a drive within you. You stay motivated when you remember the bigger picture, remember what your goal is and imagine the completion of that goal. When I started my degree, I had been out of school for over 10 years, was married with 2 small children and was working part-time. It took me 5 years to complete the program but I kept remembering the example I was setting for my sons and the opportunities that would be available after completing my program.

Mastery – Becoming Better

Stop and remember the courage you have already demonstrated by enrolling in college. Think about what this says about the kind of person you are: Determined, Committed, Courageous, Curious, and Disciplined. It will be these very things that will navigate you through those days where you wonder what it is all for. Create and install your own internal directives: “Be courageous”, “be determined”, “be disciplined”, and “be curious” and push passed the barriers that present themselves. You become better when you remind yourself of your goals and what you want and use these gifts to guide you through the peaks and valleys of your educational path.

Many of you started with little to no computer experience and yet you have developed computer skills and educational skills and disciplines. Your schedules and lifestyles have changed to accommodate your school responsibilities. Take a moment and appreciate what you have accomplished thus far. It is your belief that you are becoming better that keeps you going. It is learning to master the challenges that help you grow and develop.

Purpose – A Sense That This Will Make a Difference

Whenever your motivation is low remember the purpose for your educational goal and you will have a motivational surge. Imagine the result of your effort, the completion of an assignment, paper, project or course. Identify what is at the central core of your wanting an education and write it down on a piece of paper. Bring that paper out when you need to remind yourself of your purpose and want a motivational jump start.

You are now in the middle of the spring semester and I hope you have a continued sense of motivation. Take a moment to create your own motivational resources so they will be there when you need them the most.

Do you need a goal setting program to keep your motivation alive and manage your school, work and life? The following e-mail link, Diana.Baysinger@gmail.com, will place you in direct contact with me and I can assist you in creating your own goal setting program to keep your motivation in charge.

Diana Baysinger

Contact: www.Arizonapartners.net

Di is the founder of Arizona Partners, an international coaching and consulting business. Di has been in business for over 28 years and for the last 11 years has provided Best Year Yet programs and presentations throughout the United States and Europe. She currently serves as their International BYYO Coaching Certification trainer.
**Wise Words from the Navigator… (Concludes here)**

**Persistence** is working out early when others are still sleeping.

**Persistence** is finishing what you have started. It is starting strong and finishing strong.

**Persistence** is acting with a sense of urgency, knowing that tomorrow is too late.

**Persistence** is knowing that you’ll never outgrow your fears unless you face them. So step out in faith and push through the fear. You must learn to fight with all your might, using your gifts and talents to compensate for your weaknesses and, if possible, to convert your weaknesses into strengths.

**Persistence** means that if you reach the end of your rope, just tie a knot and hold on. And if you get injured, you make a judgment call: “Can I continue?” If you can, bite down your pain and make the win all the more worthy, or come back to the battlefield to fight again once you have recovered.

**Persistence** is the inner flame that propels your soul toward the achievement of your dreams.

*(Written by Dr. Jorge Valverde)*

As your ECE Navigator, I encourage each and every one of you reading this to be Persistent Students. Stay on task, follow up with your Instructors, keep in contact with your Advisor, and check up on grades that have not been posted. Make sure your check sheet is current. When questions arise and challenges surface – Be Persistent. Tackle them with gusto. As a runner, I live by the motto to “finish strong!” So follow up, and follow through. Make PERSISTENCE your educational mantra!

Please do not hesitate to contact me at navigator@ecehd.riosalado.edu. I look forward to working with you.

*Cheryl Beahan*

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**In Memorium**

I would like to take a moment to posthumously recognize and honor one of the strongest, dedicated Early Childhood teachers that I have had the pleasure to know, Lynn Swearingen. Lynn lost her courageous battle with ovarian cancer on Sunday, February 5, 2012. She was a committed and loving teacher to a classroom of two year olds, who absolutely adored her and who will miss her hugs and warm personality.

I had the privilege of being Lynn’s Coach as she participated in the APEX Project at Rio Salado College. After APEX, I continued to offer Lynn support and navigation with her educational journey at Rio. Despite her cancer, Lynn was a real trooper and dedicated herself to taking two or more courses at a time.

This past September, I had the pleasure of participating in the Valley of the Sun – Break the Silence 5K Run for the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition in Lynn’s honor. Besides having the privilege to be a Coach and Mentor to Lynn, I was especially blessed to call her my friend. Ironically, Lynn has provided me with guidance and encouragement, and has taught me about true determination and unwavering faith.

Teacher Lynn had been in the field of Early Childhood for the past twelve years, with the last eight years employed with Triple R Child Care in Chandler, Arizona. Of those eight years, Lynn courageously fought her cancer for four of them, showing up daily to be with her classroom of children, no matter what, if it was a chemotherapy week or not.

Lisa DeMato, Director of Triple R shared this with me, “Besides the children that Lynn so dearly loved, Lynn will be missed by her adored cat, Cleo, as well. Cleo was her constant companion, especially during her illness. Besides keeping her company, Cleo kept her warm.”

I wish to leave this lasting note to the children of Triple R, to friends and to the family of Teacher Lynn...

“While it is beyond us to know the reason why she was taken, we should all be grateful for the fragile gift of her life. As the old proverb goes, “Mourn not too long that she is gone, but rejoice forever that she was…”

~ Author Unknown