The Fast LANE Program
Liberal Arts in the New Economy

Proposed by the Management, Communications and Legal Studies Division for itself and the Career Center, the Office of Campus Life, the Office of Enrollment Management, the Office of Development, Academic Advisement and the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Introduction

The Fast LANE Program will work with RSC Academic Exploration Program (AEP) Students to provide structured guidance of these students early on, assist them in selecting college majors, and guide them through their education and into the workforce.

Activities with Faculty

Four Liberal Arts & Science faculty have been identified to participate in the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce faculty project.\(^1\) The MCLS faculty managing the project will serve as faculty leaders and assist Liberal Arts and Science faculty in developing outcomes assessment criteria.

Activities with Students

AEP students will be enrolled into a three-credit Fast LANE class, MGT 248, Special Topics in Management: Personal and Professional Development, to explore their strengths and weaknesses in employment skills. Students will also work on their life management skills, e.g., leadership, wellness, etc., with the assistance of the Career Center staff. Faculty and professional staff will work with students on life skills management with the leadership of the Wellness, Spirituality, and Upton Centers. Through the Office of Development an alumni student shadow project will be initiated.

Activities with Faculty and Students

Faculty completing the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce (ACRCC) Program will present to the AEP students in the Fast LANE class the skills which their disciplines develop and the employment opportunities that result. Students will be encouraged at the end of the first semester to identify Liberal Arts and Science majors for themselves.

The Fast LANE Program will work closely with the current mentor program and academic advisement office.\(^2\)

Mission

The mission of RSC states, “RSC from its founding in 1916 has sought to educate women to participate fully and actively in the life and work of society. The College seeks to provide women of all ages and backgrounds with a strong vision of their own power and potential. Through both its academic programs and its supportive community, RSC offers its women students an intellectually challenging and a personally fulfilling experience which facilitates the development of knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential to an increasingly interdependent world.”

The focus of the Fast LANE Program is designed to guide students through a self-assessment process. Participating students at RSC will leave the program with the ability to articulate their work-related skills and to develop their future earnings power and potential.

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\(^1\) See the attached Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce faculty program description.

\(^2\) See the attached Fast LANE Program chart.
Cost

- Funding from the existing Career Services budget.
- Funding from the existing TSC/Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce (ACRCC) faculty program at $10,000 per year.
- Funding through existing Corporate Connections Program of the TSC Office of Development.
- Funding from TSC for four course releases for MCLS faculty in year one and six course releases in year two.

Target Market

The Fast LANE Project will target students in the AEP program and TSC Liberal Arts & Science faculty. Forty percent of the current RSC prospect pool have declared themselves as “undecided.” This represents a nationally growing trend of students who declare themselves as undecided. The Fast LANE Program is one vehicle that will enhance the impact liberal arts will have on these students.3 (See the attached articles: “The Demographic Window of Opportunity: Liberal Education in the New Century’ and Business Needs the Humanities.’)

Quality

The Fast LANE Project builds upon existing programs and centers4 to create the first comprehensive collaboration between faculty and administrative offices, namely:

- Liberal Arts and Science faculty
- The MCLS Division
- The Office of Campus Life
- The Career Center
- The Office of Enrollment Management
- The Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce
- The Office of Development (Corporate Connections Program; Alumnae Office)
- Academic Advising

Outcomes from this project will be measured in terms of student participation in internships and scholarship opportunities through the Corporate Connections Program. During the pilot phase of the program, AEP students will be randomly assigned to the Fast LANE Program and a control group. (The Center for Community Based Evaluation will assist in determining indicators.)

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3 See the attached articles: “The Demographic Window of Opportunity: Liberal Education in the New Century” and Business Needs the Humanities.”
4 See the attached SAMPLE AEP/Fast LANE Program Time Frame and Related Activities chart.
# Fast LANE Program
*(Liberal Arts in the New Economy)*

## Sample: AEP/Fast Land Program Time Frame and Related Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR ONE</th>
<th>YEAR TWO</th>
<th>YEAR THREE</th>
<th>YEAR FOUR</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester One:</strong> (12-15 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGT 248</td>
<td>Fast LANE programming through the Career Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITD 120</td>
<td>Fulfill major/other academic program requirements (advisement)</td>
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<td>Fulfill major/other academic program requirements (ITD 420) (advisement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SST 111 Founders (where appropriate)</td>
<td>Mentor Program Orientation and other “transition” programs</td>
<td>Internship coordinated through the Career Center and faculty (first or second semester)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 gen. Ed. Credits</td>
<td>Fast LANE programming through the Career Center</td>
<td>Fast LANE programming through the Career Center</td>
<td>Fast LANE student advisor in the admissions office (first or second semester)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mentor Program</td>
<td>Fulfill major/other academic program requirements (advisement)</td>
<td>Selection for Corporate Connections Scholarships</td>
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<td><strong>Semester Two:</strong> (12-15 credits)</td>
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<td>Focused academic Advisement</td>
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<td>Faculty/Chamber of Commerce Program</td>
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<td>Corporate Connections partnership activities</td>
<td>Student mentor for next year’s Fast LANE Students</td>
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<td>Possible ITD co-curriculars</td>
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<td>Certificate ceremony co-sponsored with the Development Office</td>
<td>Portfolio presentation to corporate connections advisory committee and the Chamber of Commerce</td>
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Fast LANE
Supporting Documents

"Chamber launches partnership with The Sage Colleges” *Visions* - Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce (May 2001) p 9,11.
