

Professional Journal Review

The article I reviewed discusses developmental students' general background, current struggles, and the adviser/advisee relationship necessary for a success story. There are a few items that differentiate the developmental student from "traditional" student, but all begin with socioeconomic struggles. The article highlighted that issues of class were cyclical in nature; poor families paid little taxes, little money went into the educational system, thus schools had little funding, which ultimately equated to continued struggles economically for the students who attended those schools. With poor schooling and limited resources an abundance of unprepared students continue to attempt a collegiate career. Most must begin in remedial education which reduces the likelihood of their graduation, this coupled with the added discomfort adult learners face because of vulnerability at being lost in the system, does not prove to be promising. Developmental students are said to wrestle with guilt, doubt, inadequacy and possible financial troubles. Many students have other needs, work part or full time, schooling is not a priority when money is needed. Because of constant struggles, a solid Advisor/Advisee relationship is essential for the success of these students.

The article emphasized the importance of a successful relationship for the benefit of the developmental student. It stated that advisors should be supportive, safe, understanding of the realistic fears their advisees may have, serve as a life supporter, patient, identify role models similar to the developmental student, provide realistic advice, be prepared to coach through setbacks, and ultimately create a safe and trusting environment. Although I do believe a supportive relationship can have additional benefits for success, I don't believe so much emphasis should be placed on the advisor for "holding the key to success." These students have lived experience and if anything should be more prepared to handle the rigors and struggle of a

new environment than 18 year olds, as long as they have the right tools. I understand that embarrassment, self-doubt, and financial obligations can cause additional barriers, but it should not be the sole responsibility of the advisor to be in control of every situation, the advisee needs to take responsibility for their education.