2017 PIT (Point in Time) Count

- On January 24-25, DSC faculty and students participated in the annual Volusia-Flagler Coalition for the homeless PIT Count, designed to determine the scope of the homeless problem in our area. The DSC group encountered, surveyed, and interviewed over sixty persons suffering the effects of homelessness on the streets, in the woods, and in the shelters. Several indicated their desire to attend DSC and were given applications. One young woman said that her desperate economic situation was the result, in part, of a financial aid “trap [her term]” that placed her in debt.
- Carolyn Dodge of the Homeless Coalition said she may be able to provide us with some informational materials, such as 211 cards for mentors / faculty / staff.
- Emma Phillips, BSW, Housing Coordinator for Lutheran Services, Florida agreed to be included among our list of resources.

Food Pantry / Falcon Fuel Donations

- Erik Sweet, Math Dept., was inspired by Erin LeDuc to solicit his cross fit boxing gym, Force2Reckon, in DeBary* to start a continuously-running food donation program.
- Brian Lysholm, English Dept., faculty advisor to The Creative Writing Club on the DeLand* campus, wants to host a series of fund raising events this spring. Students are inquiring about homeless needs at DSC to which they may donate.
- Cheryl Kohen and Max Hackman, Library Services have agreed to place a food donation box in the library: coming soon to the front of Building 200.
- PTK met Feb. 8 and expressed a keen issue to help raise awareness and funds for student hunger and homelessness.

Homeless Student Mentoring

- The Mentoring Committee has met several times to plan for the upcoming mentor meeting on March 29. Since the start of this spring semester, the Homeless Student Mentoring Program has seen a lot of “activity”: there is anecdotal evidence that mentees are reaching out to their mentors, and the network of mentors is solidifying / growing.

*However, there still seems to be a gap in what students need and what services we can provide them, especially on the (west) branch campuses, where calls for a SPOC presence / pantry have been issued by students and faculty. The Committee will, no doubt, discuss this and other issues at the DSC Student Hunger / Homeless meeting on Feb. 17.

Pierson Family Literacy Program

- Launched last year to serve the needs of the economically-depressed west Volusia area of Pierson and its largely migrant population, this program has expanded to offering tutoring in ESOL, language, and GED skills from one to three nights a week. Several Quanta
Honors students have chosen to fulfill their community service requirement by volunteering here.

- In addition to literacy, the program is expanding to include health and dental services. DSC’s Nursing and Dental departments are coordinating to provide regular seminars, workshops, and some direct services.

**Homeless Awareness Posters**

- Thanks to the hard work of Hanh Ragone and Laurie White, homeless eligibility posters have been printed and posted throughout the Daytona campus. (See attached.)

**UCF Poverty Seminar**

- The second annual “Navigating through a Life of Poverty” event will be held 2/20/17, 6:30PM-9:00PM, Student Union Pegasus Ballroom

Facebook invite with more info here: [https://www.facebook.com/events/388558038165588/](https://www.facebook.com/events/388558038165588/)

**DSC Academic Symposium**

- The Ninth Annual Academic Excellence Symposium: “A Dialogue on Equity and Inclusion” will be held 3/3/17 from 7:30AM-4:30PM. Among others, a session on “A Conversation on Affluence and Poverty in the 21st Century” with guest facilitator Carol Tounge Mack, University of Cincinnati, will be presented.

**Cool Youtube on Retention**

- A conversation on the Student Persistence and Retention Challenge with Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab and Mark Cuban, moderated by Copley Retention Systems' CEO Keith Clougherty. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cR4qEWZ870](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cR4qEWZ870)