### Project Goal

This project is in its third phase as part of CSCC's Student Success initiatives. The overall focus of this project is to increase the number and percentage of new and continuing students who declare a major. During Phase III, the focus will be to use what was learned from last year's project in the following initiatives: expanding the number and types of workshops or events to assist students in declaring a major, improving cohort tracking of new and undeclared students, and seeking qualitative data on the effectiveness of the intervention strategy from undecided students who decided on a major.

The intrusive intervention will expand during autumn 2011 to include continuing misaligned students. The Career Assistance Project Team explored different types of continuing undecided and/or misaligned students and selected pre-radiography students as a pilot. The criteria used for the intervention included the following: active (taken classes and earned a grade within the last three years) pre-radiography students who also received financial aid. The pre-radiography group was selected because of its competitive admission criteria and the large number of students waiting to be admitted into the program.

### Reasons For Project

Columbus State is fully committed to improving the retention and persistence of our "undecided" students. Numerous projects across campus are addressing this issue. While some intrusive counseling interventions have thus far shown promising results, the college needs to pay closer attention to this group of "at risk" students. This pilot study of radiography students will allow us to focus our efforts in a measurable way and create a model with expectations of success in other groups of students.

### Organizational Areas Affected

Areas involved in this project include Counseling Services, Admissions Office, Career Services, Advising Services and the Radiography Department.

### Key Organizational Process(es)

This is a pilot program detailing how first quarter pre-radiography students choose and then declare a major. The highly selective nature of the radiography program - 130-140 applicants vs. 21-24 accepted - will allow us to develop alternative strategies for those students who are not accepted into the program.

Key processes include identifying a cohort group of students, monitor the subset who are less likely to succeed, and develop counseling strategies to meet their needs.

### Project Time Frame Rationale

Evaluation of the intervention strategy in Phases I and II gave significant insights into the implementation of Phase III of the project. During Phase III, the twelve month time frame will allow the project team to gather a year's worth of quantitative data on the effectiveness of a focused intervention strategy combined with new resources.

One of those resources, Career Coach, an on-line web-based tool, was recently rolled out (October, 2011) and is being implemented. The tool is designed to assist students in linking CSCC majors to job titles and job postings in the surrounding CSCC region.
will include this tool in the outcomes measurements.

6: Project Success Monitoring

A: The Career Assistance Project Team will monitor selected pre-radiography students as a pilot. The criteria to be used for the intervention will include the following: active - taken classes and earned a grade within the last three years - pre-radiography students who also receive financial aid.

Material from "Choosing a Major" workshops, is now being presented in relevant classes, especially ASC 190 - freshman seminar, and soon several pre-Radiography courses - all with instructor and department approval. Information includes counseling opportunities, use of the web, and specific Career Coach tools. Feedback will be collected from these sources.

7: Project Outcome Measures

A: Quarter to quarter retention of Autumn 2011 misaligned pre-radiography students will be monitored through Autumn 2012. We will track:

- the overall group's attendance and progress in core radiography courses
- the student's use of Career Coach via web metrics
- student response to intrusive counseling approaches
- inter-quarter retention
- Autumn to Autumn retention
- responses to Career Assistance questions that will include on quizzes and exams