As a Columbia College AWEstar, I am one of the numerous dots connecting me with you. I am honored to be part of the driving force focusing on student success and strategic learning. A product of the community college experience, I went on to CSU East Bay (previously known to me as CSU Hayward), graduated with a B.S. in Kinesiology and received my K-12 teaching credential in Physical Education and Biology.

After working as an office manager in two local medical offices and substitute teaching in Sonora and Groveland, I was hired in 1989 as an Instructional Assistant in Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSPS) at Columbia College tutoring mathematics and assisting Patricia Harrelson, Learning Disability Specialist.

My experience grew as a trained High Tech Center Specialist and I pursued my M.A. in Special Education with emphasis on Assistive Technology from CSU Sacramento culminating in 1998. Currently, I serve as Faculty Coordinator, Learning Disability Specialist in DSPS and teach essential skills courses.

My involvement as an active participant with academic wellness educators (AWE) has been one of a strong sense of community, connecting numerous dots that include students, staff, community and faculty. The Academic Achievement Center and DSPS have partnered in tutoring students and with tutors specially trained in sound learning tools to improve outcomes in the classroom.

I am also thrilled to be currently involved in the Summer On Ramp program as a jumpstart to Fall semester. Students learn methods and approaches in this study skills course to transfer them from On Ramp to the rest of their academic studies. I am proud to be a dot with a connection!!

My name is Brandon Winkles and I have the honor to be a tutor in the Academic Achievement Center. This is all very new to me. Before returning to school two years ago, I was a high school dropout. This made my returning to school frightening. The way I coped with the fear and stress was to attend as many study sessions as I could.

This led me to the Academic Achievement Center where I received an amazing amount of help.

I wanted to return the favor, and began to tutor classes myself. This is the start of my second year as a tutor and I continue to enjoy it greatly. I currently tutor a wide range of subjects including Math, English, History, Psychology and a handful of Biology and Chemistry classes.

Through taking and tutoring...
The “Write On” Series

Professor Rick Rivera developed the “Write On” series as a resource for faculty and students to use. This series of videos explains the writing process, and there will be other videos posted in the very near future. Other topics will include reading actively, and there will be short clips presenting the twenty most common errors in college student writing. These videos can be shared with your students to assist them with their writing assignments.

The series is now available on the Media Share channel: http://share.yosemite.edu/go=IEDW

On Friday, February 24, from 11:30 to 1:00, Rick will be presenting a workshop on writing prompts and rubrics. Lunch will be offered from 11:30 to 12:00, the flex-credit workshop will be from 12:00 to 1:00. The lunch and workshop will be in the ITC in the Tamarack Building. Please RSVP with Melissa Colon, colonm@yosemite.edu.

Health & Nutrition Events

Keeping in the spirit of the GPS Tool for Health & Nutrition for the month of January was highlighted with a free talk by Dr. Jaggy, M.D. from the Foothill Center for Holistic Healing in Columbia. Dr. Jaggy’s talk and slide show presentation focused on “Nutrition for Clear Thinking. How to eat your way to an A.” The event was videotaped and will be shared later in the semester.

To continue with Health & Nutrition there was a “Richard Simmons’s Look A Like” contest. Staff, students and faculty exercised to the oldies but goodies led by Richard Simmons. It was a blast from the past! Prizes were given to the best costumes.

The Healthy Recipe Contest and Health Tips Contest encouraged us to share our own version of a healthy recipe and good health tips. The recipes and tips will be judged by the GPS Committee, prizes awarded and shared on the GPS Web site.