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## IUPUI Mentoring Program Garners National Recognition

University College's advising program, Students Taking Academic Responsibility (STAR), has been selected as an Outstanding Institutional Advising Program Award Winner from the National Academic Advising Association as part of the 2010 Annual Awards Program for Academic Advising.

The program is directed by Chris Maroldo, Assistant Director of Academic Success Programs and coordinated by Gwen Hobley, Academic Advisor.

STAR is a semester-long free mentoring program that provides academic and personal support for University College students who are on first-time academic probation. Mentors are trained to collaborate with their students to help them become more focused and motivated to address their challenges, improve their strengths, and connect to the various resources on campus that can help them reach their academic and career goals. Students commit to attend weekly scheduled appointments with their mentor or weekly group mentoring sessions.

A combination of faculty, professional staff, and students from across campus volunteer each semester to be mentors. Weekly discussions include a variety of skill-building activities, including setting realistic and attainable goals, time management, motivation, and prioritizing. They agree to meet with students weekly for 30 minutes for approximately 10 weeks. The average fall-to-fall retention rate for STAR participants is 19% higher than students on probation who do not participate in the program.

"Receiving this national award is an honor and serves as recognition of University College's support of the great work Gwen Hobley and our volunteer mentors have been doing to help our students get back on track," Maroldo said.

Those interested in volunteering to be a mentor for Spring 2011 should contact Chris Maroldo at [cmaroldo@iupui.edu](mailto:cmaroldo@iupui.edu).

STAR was selected as one of three programs to be honored with this award in nationwide competition this year. NACADA's Outstanding Advising Program Awards annually recognize programs that document innovative and/or exemplary practices resulting in improvement of academic advising service. The award was presented October 3 during the NACADA Annual Conference in Florida.



Gwen Hobley and Chris Maroldo

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