Starfish Newsletter

END-OF-SEMESTER UPDATES

Welcome to the November edition of our Starfish newsletter! With the semester winding down, we have some important updates and resources to help you continue supporting our students. Thanks so much for all you do. Your commitment makes a real difference!

FINAL PROGRESS SURVEYS

We wrapped up our final Progress Surveys of the semester on October 30. These surveys help us catch any students who might need extra support before finals. Survey Results:

- Completion Rate: 70% of faculty completed the surveys. Thank you for your participation!
- Outreach Impact: Over 2,300 Current Letter Grade D or F flags were raised, allowing Success Coaches to connect with 1,600 students. This targeted support has been essential in helping students finish strong.

Your engagement helps ensure that students receive timely feedback and resources as they prepare for final exams.

MIDTERM GRADES AND STUDENT SUPPORT

Thanks to everyone who used Starfish to complete Progress Surveys and submitted midterm grades. Your participation helps us identify students who might need extra support as the end of the semester draws near.

- This semester, 3,025 system flags were automatically raised for students with D or F midterm grades. Due to the pilot's outcomes at PennWest aligning with national data on log-in correlation with student course success, we will keep using these flags to guide outreach efforts. Outreach emails from the Office of Student Outreach and Success highlighted resources, encouraged appointments with Success Coaches, access to tutoring and writing support through Starfish, and the use of the "Raise Your Hand" feature for academic help. Additionally, students received links to important dates and were encouraged to reach out to professors for guidance.

You can find these emails on the Starfish D2L shell if you'd like to review them.

KUDOS AND RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS

So far, **188** Kudos have been raised to recognize students who are excelling. Kudos is a Starfish feature that lets you send positive feedback directly to students, acknowledging their efforts. As a nationally recognized best practice for student support and retention, Kudos is a simple way to uplift students as they head into finals. Even small acknowledgments like these can make a meaningful difference in keeping students motivated through the last stretch.

Thank you again for all you do to support our students through Starfish!

contact us at Starfish@pennwest.edu

D2L LOGIN LAST ACCESS AND FLAGS

The D2L Login Flag Pilot for **online** courses has proven to be an effective tool for tracking student engagement. Since its launch, the pilot identified **444** unique students with **626** flags raised for inactivity of 10 days or more. Outreach emails were sent to these students with the following reminders:

- The importance of regularly accessing course materials, assignments, and announcements to stay on track.
- Guidance on resolving D2L access issues through the IT Helpdesk.
- Information on available tutoring and academic support resources via Starfish.
- Encouragement for students who are no longer attending or considering withdrawal to contact their instructors to update records.
- These outreach emails can also be viewed on the Starfish D2L shell for your reference.

Due to the pilot's success, we plan to expand this feature in Spring 2025 to include more courses.

Don't forget, you can access a student's D2L "Last Access" information directly from their Starfish folder under **Courses**.

REGISTRATION HOLDS: DIRECT LINK FOR FACULTY

To assist with Spring registration, direct links for resolving registration holds are available in each student's Starfish folder with instructions to help them clear them. This makes it easier for students to get the guidance they need to enroll in next semester's courses.

- Faculty and staff can access step-by-step instructions directly from the student folder or by using the quick guide HERE.

OFFICE HOURS AND CALENDAR SYNCING REMINDERS

As we near the semester's end, don't forget to update your office hours in Starfish if you haven't already:
- Ensure your Starfish and Outlook calendars are **synced** to prevent double-bookings.
- Set an **end date** for your office hours to avoid overlapping schedules into the next term.
For assistance, use our One-Page Handout to set up office hours.

ADVISEE MANAGEMENT

The end of the semester is a important time for advising. Check out the Starfish tools to help you efficiently manage your advisees:
- **Advisee Video**: A short tutorial to help you find and manage your advisees.
- **Advisee Handout**: A guide for filtering and emailing your advisees.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

If you have any questions or need help with Starfish features, don't hesitate to reach out to us at starfish@pennwest.edu. We're here to support you as we work together to enhance student success.