## Theory Application Assignment #1

"The more broad and inclusive our work has been the more useful we find formal theory. The more we focus on the individual the more we have had to rely on informal theory and personal constructs" (Parker, 1977, p. 422). In this statement and throughout his article, Parker indicates theory may not be particularly useful when working with individual students or diverse populations of students. He suggests that in such situations educators should always flex to meet the individual needs of their students. On the other hand, Parker asserts theory can be extremely useful at the college and classroom level, especially when planning programs for groups that share some common characteristics.

In this paper you will be asked to demonstrate your understanding of the theories that we have covered thus far.  This is your chance to examine existing programs within your office through a theoretical lens. You are asked to evaluate the way your office utilizes theory when working with students, particularly with programming. In order to do this, you may need to evaluate the policies adhered to by your office and the programs and services offered. Ask yourself, are these policies, practices, programs, and services in line with the theories I have learned about in this course? If so, please explain why. If not, explain why not. After you have assessed your office's use of theory, you are now to come up with a list of practical, theory-grounded recommendations that would help improve the ability of your office to serve students. It is imperative that you justify the recommendations you provide with theory and research when possible.

This paper should consist of three major sections (excluding a conclusion)
1.  An introduction explaining the mission and objectives of your department/office. This introduction should also provide the reader with a thesis and outline of what your paper will discuss.
2.  The next session should be the assessment of you offices utilization of theory with respect to its current policies, practices, programs, and services. In this assessment it important that you provide you reader with a necessary understanding of what aspect of the office you are assessing and why this aspect does or does not align with the theoretical perspectives presented in this course.
3.  Finally, the recommendations you provide will encompass the last section of the paper. As described above, practical recommendations that would help enhance your office's ability to serve students should be offered. It is critical that these recommendations have some sort of link to theory and/or research.

This assignment is worth 10% of your grade. The paper should be 10-12 pages. As usual, APA format is required.  This assignment is due in the drop box on February 27th.

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