

DCCCD Incentive Funding Retention Awards Executive Summary

PLANNING AWARDS:

Biology Ready

Award Principal Coordinator: Dr. Peggy Mason, BHC
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Collaboration: BHC and CVC

Award Amount: \$4,500 Award Period: 1 semester

Only fifty-five percent of DCCCD students taking a first semester biology course in fall 2007 passed with an A, B, or C. Of the 5,108 students enrolled, 2,288 were set back in their educational goals.

This is a critical issue for students who are working toward core completion, a science major, and an Allied Health career. Core completers take 8 credits of natural science. From fall 2006 through summer 2008, Biology for Non-science Majors (BIOL 1408 or BIOL 1409) was among the last course taken district-wide as students either put off their science requirement or repeated the course. Students pursuing Allied Health enroll in Applied Human Anatomy & Physiology (SCIT 1407). Of 1,245 DCCCD students enrolled in fall 2007, 51% did not successfully complete the course. After watching students be “stymied” in their educational and career goals, there is a belief that there must be an intervention *before* the student fails in that first course.

Students entering biology classes in the DCCCD often lack skills needed to begin to master biology content. Perhaps the greatest stumbling block is found in the Natural Science EEO #2, which asks students to understand and use scientific methods, inquiry, and communication styles. This proposal involves the development of a science prep class for under-prepared students using the Directed Studies course, DIRS 9170 (1 cr.). A course template will be developed that will include learning skills and background knowledge that are applicable to any of the first semester biology courses.