

College/Location: Cedar Valley College

The Retention Best Practice is primarily supported by what college/location area:

Instruction____ Student Services____ Administrative____

Combination of areas: (Please list: Student Services & Instruction)

Contact Person: (Include contact information)

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Retention Best Practice Title:

Summer Bridge Program

Retention Best Practice Area of Focus:

Math X STEM____ Honors College____ Other: Developmental Education

Retention Best Practice Executive Summary: approximately 50 words (Please use additional pages for a detailed description)

Summer Bridge programs focused on successful completion of Developmental Reading or Math in the Summer, 2007 program and Developmental Math in the Summer, 2008 program. Both programs were designed to improve student success through an intensive summer effort involving student services, instruction, academic support services and collaboration with area high schools.

Please describe the evaluation measures utilized to support this initiative as a best practice.

Extensive evaluations were completed with Summer, 2007 Developmental Education Summer Bridge program and the Summer, 2008 Intensive Summer Program in compliance with THECB grant requirements.

Provide a summary of the results, including data (such as trend lines over time) to show how it impacted retention and is a best practice.

In Summer, 2007, a Developmental Summer Bridge program was funded by THECB and successfully achieved its goals. Fifty two of 55 (95%) at-risk participants completed the program, successfully completing a least one college course and 87% enrolled in a college in fall, 2007. The greatest success was with students who completed a Developmental math course (61% significantly improved from the pre- to post-Accuplacer test scores). In addition, 98% of the student participants agreed that the program increased their knowledge of academic resources and 93% agreed or strongly agreed that the program helped define college and career goals.

In Summer, 2008, 52 students were enrolled in the Intensive Summer Program, 40 of whom are currently enrolled at Cedar Valley for Fall 2008. Seven students withdrew from at least one class; of those seven, four are currently enrolled (and are included in the 40 above). Only two students failed a course in the Intensive Summer Program and one of those two has re-enrolled. Most students participated in the Friday workshops and spoke favorably about their experiences. The program enabled students to have Financial Aid or scholarships and the

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necessary textbooks in time for classes to begin. Supplies were also a benefit to students as well as special mentoring by faculty, advisors and Intensive Summer Program staff.

What would be needed to replicate the practice at other DCCCD colleges?

If the DCCCD colleges could propose a common Summer Bridge program that would meet the requirements of the THECB request for grant proposals for summer, 2009, it would be beneficial to all colleges and their student success and enrollment initiatives.

Cost to implement this practice (financial and human):

Summer Bridge programs were funded by THECB (\$50,000 grant) and Cedar Valley College Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (\$12,500 in Financial Aid and scholarships).

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