

## ***DCCCD Retention Best Practice Submission Form***

College/Location: El Centro College

The Retention Best Practice is primarily supported by what area: Communications, Mathematics, Developmental Studies, and Teacher Preparation Division

Contact Person: Lisa Theriot, Interim Executive Dean  
214-860-2246

Retention Best Practice: HDEV 1310 / Required Freshman Experience Course

Math \_\_\_\_\_ STEM \_\_\_\_\_ Honors College \_\_\_\_\_ Other  X

### Retention Best Practice Executive Summary:

This unique course was made feasible because of an innovative and cost-saving staffing pattern utilizing full-time employees of the college or the District Office as adjunct instructors. The course has been shown to significantly improve both retention and GPA outcomes for students and creates a climate that transforms the first-year college experience from one characterized by anxiety, confusion, and anonymity to one that offers a safe, friendly, and down-to-earth learning community. Students have the opportunity to form enduring relationships with fellow students and with their instructors, while gaining the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for success in the classroom and the workplace. Instead of becoming a class that students complain about having to take, we have students asking if they can enroll for a second semester.

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

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research (OIER) tracks the course completion rates, Fall to Spring retention, Fall to Fall retention, and total success (retention, graduation and/or transfer) of students who participated in the mandatory course vs first time in college students who did not participate in the course.

Provide a summary of the results, including data to show how it impacted retention and is a best practice.

### El Centro College HDEV-1310 Completion and Retention Rates

	Unique Headcount	Completion Rate*	% Retained Next Spring	% Retained Next Fall**	% Graduates	% Transfers***	Total Success****
Fall 2006 HDEV-1310	599	86.1%	69.8%	41.7%	1.5%	16.5%	54.6%
Fall 2006 HDEV-1310 FTIC	440	86.1%	71.6%	40.0%	1.4%	17.0%	54.1%
Fall 2006 FTIC (No DC or HDEV-1310)	488	84.9%	55.3%	33.4%	1.6%	17.6%	48.8%
Fall 2007 HDEV-1310	607	84.7%	65.7%	38.4%	0.0%	6.6%	44.2%
Fall 2007 HDEV-1310 FTIC	417	86.3%	69.3%	39.8%	0.0%	8.2%	46.5%
Fall 2007 FTIC (No DC or HDEV-1310)	455	84.5%	50.1%	27.3%	0.9%	9.0%	36.0%

\*Completion rate for all course enrollments with grade unlike W

\*\*Fall Term Final Enrollment, except for 2008FA, as of 10/17/08

\*\*\*Transfers include students who transfer to other DCCCD campus, other 2 year college, or 4 year college

\*\*\*\*Total success includes retained next fall, or graduated, or transferred

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

Colleges would need to make the HDEV class mandatory for all new-to-college students, hire enough qualified full-time employees as adjunct instructors, and adopt a curriculum such as *On Course* that helps students develop strategies for creating success in college and in life.

Cost to implement this practice.

No appreciable cost to implement.