

DCCCD Retention Best Practice Submission Form

Across the district there are many successful practices that contribute to the retention of students. As the district begins to develop a greater emphasis on its retention strategy, all locations are asked to identify and submit information about successful retention programs and activities. Please complete the following information on selected practices.

College/Location:

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

Instruction__xx__ Student Services____ Administrative____

Combination of areas: (Please list)

Contact Person: (Include contact information) Francis Osentowski, Music Dept coordinator

Retention Best Practice Title: Retention in Music Appreciation CORE classes at NLC.

Retention Best Practice Area of Focus:

Math____ STEM____ Honors College____ Other____ Music CORE
class_____

Retention Best Practice Executive Summary: approximately 50 words (Please use additional pages for a detailed description) MUSI 1306 is a popular CORE elective at North Lake College and across the DCCCD. It is a Music Appreciation course which naturally draws great interest from students. Unfortunately, nation-wide the drop rate is high in this course, often near 50%. However, at NLC we have a good retention rate in the ten sections at main and north campus usually at or above 80% students retained.

This year, acting as music coordinator, I have added a "Team Presentation" to the course content. This group presentation is similar to that required in Speech classes at NLC and is intended to promote active participation by students rather than passive reading/note taking/music listening. I designed a project outline, a long list of suggested topics, and a grading sheet and distributed it to our entire full-time and adjunct faculty teaching MUSI 1306. Several faculty have added the assignment this semester and others have expressed interest in including it spring semester.

So far, the team presentation assignment has been a big "hit" in my classes. Enthusiastic student team work in time allowed at the end of class and quality and well researched presentations by the groups. I feel this new course component will help our retention be even higher this semester and in the future.

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

The students are graded individually on: Report outline, individual typed research paper covering their portion, quality of the individual oral/multi-media presentation to the class.

Please submit this form to Dr. Sharon L. Blackman, DCCCD Educational Affairs by October 24, 2008

EVALUATION

This team-presentation will be included as a sample assignment on future syllabi.

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.

Results from the few team reports presented so far are good, with high quality work. The presentations have been well-received by the class.

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

Faculty interested in the assignment. I would be glad to share my team-report outline and grading sheet outline and all materials and procedures required.

Cost to implement this practice (financial and human): None

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