

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 X Student Services _____ Administrative _____

Combination of areas: (Please list)

Contact Person: (Include contact information)

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Retention Best Practice Title: LASSI

Retention Best Practice Area of Focus:

Math _____ STEM _____ Honors College _____ Other DWRI

Retention Best Practice Executive Summary: approximately 50 words (Please use additional pages for a detailed description) Developmental Writing course redesign targets student deficiencies with a holistic, whole-person approach to academics. Developmental students are typically capable students who often sabotage themselves due to poor personal habits and behaviors. Course redesign instructors employ strategies that promote student self-awareness and self-knowledge in the pursuit of academic success.

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

Course redesign instructors use the Learning and Study Strategies Inventory or LASSI in a unit on student responsibility and motivation. "The LASSI is a 10-scale, 80-item assessment of students' awareness about and use of learning and study strategies related to skill, will and self-regulation components of strategic learning. The focus is on both covert and overt thoughts, behaviors, attitudes and beliefs that relate to successful learning and that can be altered through educational interventions. Research has repeatedly demonstrated that these factors contribute significantly to success in college and that they can be learned or enhanced through educational interventions such as learning and study skills courses." –H and H Publishing

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.

RLC Course Redesign is in the middle of its course redesign plan and final results are not in at this time; however, retention rates in pilot course redesign sections of 0091 and 0093 are > 95%

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

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

Developmental Ed. coordinators would need to purchase LASSI and deploy it in an interactive module in which student reflect and write on their LASSI results and the results obtained by other students.

Cost to implement this practice (financial and human):

The cost of a LASSI is \$3.50 for the first 99 tests. For more than 100 tests, the cost drops to \$3.00 per test. A workshop on LASSI will have to be conducted so faculty understand how to implement the test, available as paper and pencil test or as an online assessment.

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