

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: Richland

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

Instruction Student Services _____ Administrative _____

Combination of areas: (Please list)

Contact Person: (Include contact information)

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Other faculty are involved – Becki Williams, Jackie Reynolds, Jill Buettner

Retention Best Practice Title:

Science Success Workshop

Retention Best Practice Area of Focus:

Math _____ STEM Honors College _____ Other:

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

Forty –five minute group presentation in the Science Corner the third week of each long semester for the purpose of sharing with student campus resources, best practices for lecture performance, lab performance, proper study habits, time management, proper reading of texts, how to prepare for exams, suggestions for use of campus resources (tutoring, advising, career services), overview of upper division course expectations, professional school expectations, use of science resources (TAAHP advisors, Health Professions Club, Health Professions Information Week, Science Division's Health Careers Website) -- all of these are also included in a handout provided. Also, faculty teams present and add their comments based upon their experiences --- all intended to assist students in their performance in science classes.

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

We hope increased retention and grade performance will be reflected course by course. No formal tracking is done.

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

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.

Students are given a realistic overview of their expected performances in science classes. Since the needs of a science student differ greatly from the preparation for students in other courses, this is invaluable. But no precise measurement is possible – as while we can track those in attendance, we have no pre-session performance in science classes for same.

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

The willingness of faculty to gather (or share ours) information - we also included faculty-counselors trained in learning theory and study behaviors to help develop our model.

Cost to implement this practice (financial and human):

ZERO!

Michael C. Bell 10-3-08

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