



SOARING TO GREATER HEIGHTS: A 2007-2008 REPORT OF THE RISING STAR PROGRAM



The Foundation

DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



About the Rising Star Program

- In 1999, the Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) introduced its Rising Star Program to stem the tide of high school graduates unable to attend college due to lack of finances.
- **Rising Star provides scholarships of up to \$4,000 for tuition and books for a maximum of three years to qualified Dallas County high school junior or seniors who graduate with a “B” average or have passed the required college assessment test AND show economic need.**



About the Rising Star Program

- Rising Star recipients may choose to earn an associate's degree or certificate, earn the necessary credits to transfer to a four-year institution or receive fast-track job training at any one of the seven DCCCD colleges.
- Applicants have up to a year after graduating from one of the participating Dallas County high schools to apply for Rising Star scholarships.
- **The DCCCD Foundation has raised approximately \$24 million of its \$30 million goal in private funds to support the program through a permanent endowment.**



Challenges

Although they graduated from high school with an “A” or “B” average, more than 73 percent of Rising Star students need developmental coursework in reading, writing and math. To address this, the DCCCD has done the following:

- 1. Established Rising Star offices at each of the seven DCCCD colleges.** The offices are staffed by full-time District employees who “case-manage” the progress of Rising Star students and who provide services such as tutoring or advisement to ensure their success in college. Additionally, a Rising Star office has been established at the DCCCD headquarters to further enhance the administration and management of the program.



Challenges

- 2. Each Rising Star student is required to take a Human Development course designed especially for them.** The class engages them in active study skills, provides information and practice in accessing tutorial labs, and presents information on how to succeed in college. This course not only strengthens the academic skills and habits of Rising Star students, but also benefits other DCCCD students who opt to enroll in it.



Highlights

- **More than 9,000 Rising Star students have enrolled in the DCCCD since the program's inception.**
- Since the program's county-wide expansion in 2001 following its two-year pilot phase, **every public high school in Dallas County (except Highland Park High School, which typically does not have applicants demonstrating economic need) has participated in Rising Star.**



Highlights

- Success rates in colleges and universities are measured over a six-year period. **Accordingly, Rising Star's documented success rate of 60 percent for its class enrolling in Fall 2001 is as follows:**

952 total students

- 303 earned associate degrees. (106 transferred to universities.)
- 80 earned certificates. (15 transferred to universities.)
- 149 are still enrolled in the DCCCD.
- 42 transferred to universities without earning DCCCD degrees.



Highlights

Additionally, of the 952 Class III students:

- 118 have earned a bachelor's degree.
- 7 have earned a master's degree.

Note: According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 10 percent of Texas public community college students received an associate degree, 5 percent completed a certificate and 7 percent were still enrolled in their educational institutions in a six-year period.

The 60 percent success rate of our Class III students may be higher, but we report what we are able to document.



Highlights

- **Fall 2007 total program enrollment was 2,816.**
- Rising Star continues to maintain an ethnically diverse student population with high financial need. **Of the total Rising Star students attending college in Fall 2007, 95 percent are of various non-white ethnic groups. Fifty-nine (59) percent of Rising Star's current students are receiving additional state or federal funds.**
- **The top three fields in which current Rising Star students are enrolled include health/medical (25 percent), business (19 percent) and education (13 percent).**



Highlights

- **Rising Star currently boasts a 76 percent total retention rate** (Fall 2006 first-year students returning in Fall 2007). This is above the state and national retention rates of 49 percent and 53 percent, respectively.
- **Rising Star has been recognized nationally** by the American Association of Higher Education, Cornell University's Institute for Community Colleges and the League for Innovation in the Community College. Most recently, **Rising Star has served as a model scholarship program for universities in seven countries throughout Africa.** This has been supported by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation through the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

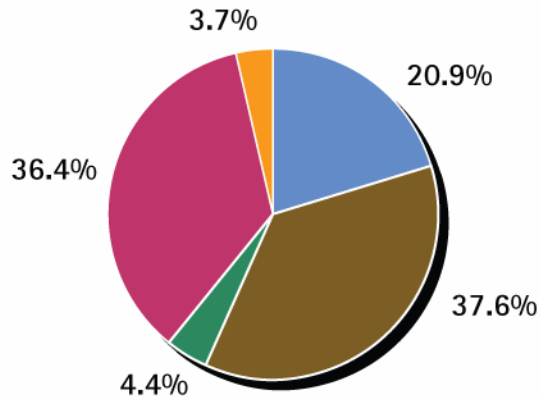


Current data/progress of the Rising Star Program – Fall 2007

Ethnicity

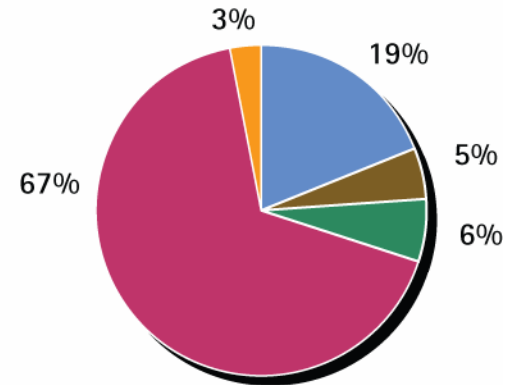
DALLAS COUNTY

20.9%	African-American
37.6%	Anglo
4.4%	Asian
36.4%	Hispanic
3.7%	Other



RISING STAR

19%	African American
5%	Anglo
6%	Asian
67%	Hispanic
3%	Other





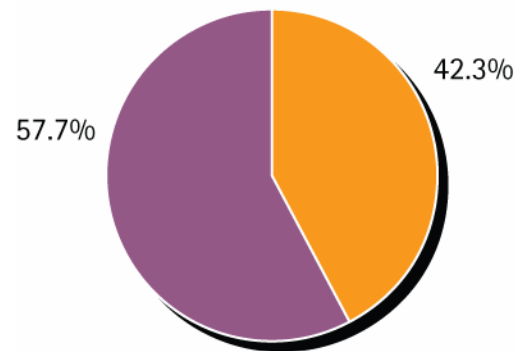
Current data/progress of the Rising Star Program – Fall 2007

Gender

Nationally, more than one-half of all undergraduate students are women.

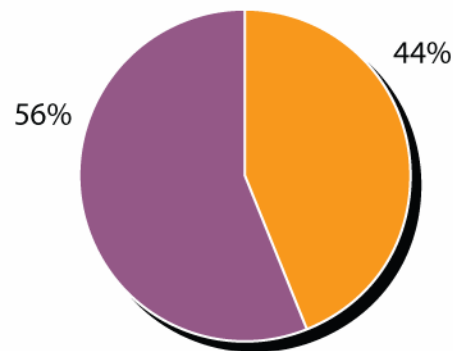
DCCCD

Male 42.3%
Female 57.7%



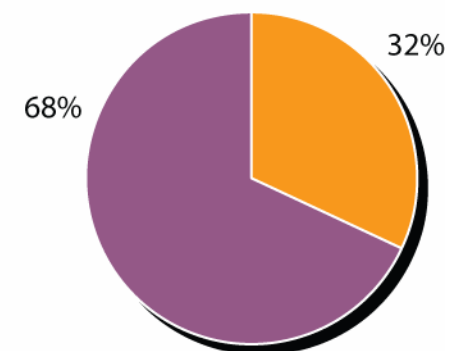
TEXAS**

Male 44%
Female 56%



RISING STAR

Male 32%
Female 68%










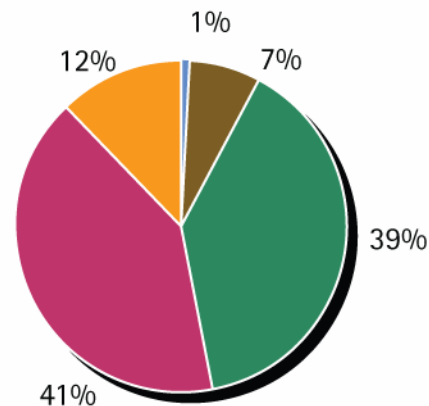
Current data/progress of the Rising Star Program – Fall 2007

Credit Hours

Forty-seven (47) percent of Rising Star students are enrolled in 11 or more credit hours. Only 33 percent of Texas community college students attend full-time; nationally, 40 percent are enrolled full-time.

CREDIT HOURS

	18+	1%
	15-17	7%
	11-14	39%
	5-10	41%
	1-4	12%









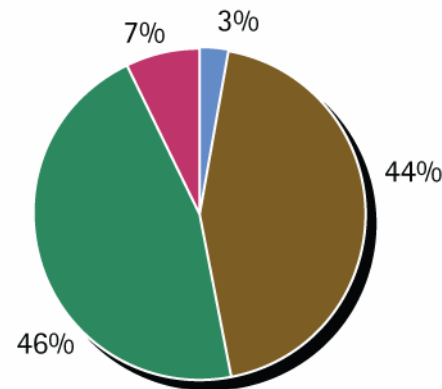
Current data/progress of the Rising Star Program – Fall 2007

GPA

Rising Star students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average or higher to remain funded by the program.

**GPA— RISING STAR STUDENTS
(2006-2007 ACADEMIC YEAR)**

	4.0	3%
	3.0 -3.99	44%
	2.0-2.99	46%
	1.0-1.99*	7%.





Rising Star Legacy Leaders (\$1 million benefactors and above)



Mrs. Reece A. Overcash, Jr.

Anonymous

Don and Ruth Buchholz

Michael and Linda Mewhinney

George and Fay Young Foundation



For more information

All data relating to Rising Star and the DCCCD was gathered through the DCCCD Development Office/Foundation, District Rising Star Office, District Research Office and District Service Center.

A full version of the Rising Star report is posted on the DCCCD Foundation Web site:

www.foundation.dcccd.edu



The Foundation

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