

**Title of Grant:** Best Practices in Student Development Courses

**SP2008 – 87W-FF**

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**Abstract:**

This one-day workshop was for SDV coordinators, instructors, counselors, and other interested faculty and staff who wanted to learn about best practices in the delivery of college success courses. Participation in this program enhanced the knowledge, skills and abilities of all involved.

**Actual Outcomes:**

Professionals delivering the SDV courses at the various campuses greatly appreciated the chance to meet together. To initiate the beginning of a network was an important result of this conference.

The following 5 objectives were accomplished by participation in various presentations and small groups: 1) learning best practices within the area of college success courses, 2) discussing challenges and opportunities of using these courses as ways to promote student success and increased retention within the VCCS, 3) discussing how to structure College Success Skills courses in order to expand student learning, 4) learning about instructional strategies that enhance student engagement, and 5) learning how to incorporate various resources within the delivery of the course

**Other Colleges:**

All colleges were invited. 15 (plus representatives of the systems office) attended, making a total of 41 participants.

**Discussion and Critique:**

1. The fact that we had such attendance for a relatively specific group of people (SDV administrators) on 6- weeks' notice showed the need to continue this process. We recommend that we look at perhaps having an SDV conference every other year (alternating with counseling peer group) and that some information concerning SDV be included in each peer conference as well. The suggestion is also that we begin a listserve for SDV instructors and administrators in the VCCS. The whole conference was highly evaluated (96% rating the experience as "Excellent") and I hope that we can keep the momentum going.

**Evaluation:**

77% said they found the keynote speaker to be "very good" or "excellent."

100% said that the roundtable forums were "excellent."

100% said the "learning outcomes and evaluation" session was "very good" or "Excellent."

100% said "The Future of SDV" was "Very Good" or "Excellent."

The most popular and highly rated features were the round-table open forums.

**VCCS Benefits:**

The chance to meet as a group with a special interest in SDV courses proved to be energizing for the attendees. The roundtable discussions gave a chance to share ideas from different campuses that others have since incorporated. We were able to provide training concerning classroom methods and evaluation that attendees could pass on to others on their campuses. Overall, the benefit is that we have begun to build a core group of professionals with an interest in SDV and First-Year programs in the VCCS. Ideas generated by this group can be used to build retention programs for first-semester students within the VCCS.