



COMMUNITY COLLEGES HONOR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Two California Community Colleges honored with Exemplary Program Award, two others selected as Honorable Mentions.

SACRAMENTO, Calif.- January 16, 2017- The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is pleased to announce that the Los Angeles Trade-Technical College and Santa Barbara City College are selected to receive the 2017-2018 Exemplary Program Award for being the best embodiment of this year's theme, *Guided Pathways*. Two colleges received honorable mentions for this prestigious award: MiraCosta College and Skyline College. Each of these programs bring innovative methods to pedagogy and improved student success.

Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTC) was selected to receive the Exemplary Program Award for its Advanced Transportation and Manufacturing (ATM) Pathway. The ATM pathway was created from LATTC's initiative titled: Pathways to Academic, Career, and Transfer Success (PACTS). The PACTS initiative aims to assist students, many of whom are from traditionally marginalized groups, to successfully plan and complete a certificate or degree while negating barriers to completion. The ATM Pathway program is one of the strongest, most innovative departments, composed of twenty-two full-time faculty. With collaboration being a central focus to the PACTS initiative, the ATM program invokes this theme by breaking down traditional silos and barriers between student services and academics. Students have direct access to a dedicated counselor who is well versed in program requirements, has strong relationships with pathway faculty, and deploys immediate interventions to connect students to resources. Beyond the campus, the program expands to deep community partnerships with local agencies and is named maintenance partner in all three bids for the \$3.5 billion Automated People Mover (APM) at the Los Angeles World Airports. The program has measurable success as Martin Diaz, LATTC Academic Senate President specifies, "Over the past six years, LATTC has more than doubled its completions in terms of Associate degrees and industry certificates. The ATM can show even greater percentage improvements in its completion agenda, then can the college college-wide." The LATTC ATM program and PACTS model demonstrates how restructuring resources can lead to maximized impact on student attainment.

Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) was honored with the Exemplary Award for its Express to Success Program (ESP) which is designed to help students complete basic skills educational goals in a timely manner and better prepare them to begin taking courses required for a degree or transfer. The program is open to all students, but specifically targets Latino and low-income students to offer accelerated learning communities in transfer level math and English for students who assess at one to two levels below college level. The program has demonstrated success in closing the achievement gap compared to SBCC students overall. The Latino students have an enrollment rate of 60-70% and a 70-80% enrollment rate for low-income students. This increase in enrollment is due to program growth from 10 to 23 learning communities to more than 1100 students in 2016-17. Academic Senate President for SBCC, Priscilla Butler points to not only the compelling data to measure program success, but also connects back to how this directly impacts students. She affirms, "The combination of quantitative and qualitative data

attest to the benefits of ESP not only in being successful in [students] foundational math and English courses, but also in their long-term goals. In a survey regarding the program, one student remarked “I have grown to become independent and know my responsibilities. I really enjoyed having a community of friends all working hard to become successful.” Another student pointed to the courses addressing student needs: “I think this course is a fantastic opportunity for people who need a refresher course or for those who don’t do well on assessment exams. The course was well paced and outlined. I would recommend this program [and] plan to take more ESP courses.” The college has recognized the benefits of ESP by institutionalizing it and expanding the number of sections offered. In addition, the college has presented its model at several venues and workshops to share its success with colleges and partners alike.

MiraCosta College received an Honorable Mention for addressing student needs in math placement with their Bridge to Success in Math (BTSM) program. The BTSM was first implemented in 2014 and is a free refresher developmental mathematics program designed to improve student achievement in mathematics. The need to create the program was uncovered in 2013 when about 77% of the entering students were placed in basic skills math courses, while only 6% of students placed in Pre-Algebra successfully completed a transfer-level math class. The BTSM provides enrichment instruction for students admitted to any program to improve placement test scores and enable students to take a shorter path to transfers level math courses. The initial measure for success in BTSM is based on the improvement in placement test scores. In the lifetime of BTSM, 96% of the 570 total participants proceeded to place in a higher mathematics class after attending the program. Additionally, BTSM participants experience nearly 10% higher success rates than their peers in their subsequent math classes. One of the participants remarked on their increased confidence after being a part of the program, stating “Before attending the program, I had little to no success in my math courses and had a lot of math anxiety. I’ve had problems with math all my life, a feeling of inadequacy, however, this program taught me how to study math, ask for help, use my resources, and never give up.” It is through the collaborative efforts of faculty, and college programs such the Testing Services department, Counseling Services and School Relation and Diversity Outreach department, that students have seen remarkable success in the BTSM program. In an analysis of the surveys and interviews of 40 students and instructional staff, the most helpful aspects of the program in increasing students’ placement test level were classroom tutors, tutoring services outside classrooms, supplemental practices including daily quizzes and extra practices and Math Anxiety workshops. MiraCosta College believes that community colleges can replicate the BTSM model with low cost but high and collaborative involvement from faculty, instructional aides, student services, and other campus resources.

Skyline College earned an Honorable Mention for its Engineering Tech Scholars (ETS) STEM pathway program. As Skyline College is currently in the process of creating guided pathways for all majors, Skyline College Senate President, Kathryn Williams explains that “The ETS program has served as a notable pilot which not only guides students to timely graduation, but also supports students’ financial, and psychological needs, demonstrating the college ‘students first’ culture.” The program supports the recruitment of underserved students who often do not see themselves studying within STEM pathways. Over 70% of the cohorts identify with an ethnic group that is underrepresented in STEM. Beyond course support, the program offers financial scholarships with 12 students awarded \$3,000 scholarships in 2017. In fall of 2016 the data shows that 81% of ETS students passed Trigonometry compared to 43% of the college average. Likewise, 66% of ETS students passed Pre-Calculus compared to 57.8% of the college average.

Students benefit from the cohort model, completing major and core requirements together through peer relationships, an embedded Retention Specialist in and outside the classroom and provides wraparound support. Wraparound support includes: case management, coaching, and comprehensive mental health/ needs assessments. Contextualized learning, supplemental instruction, and 1:1 tutoring is also essential to the program. ETS serves as a cost-effective model of a guided pathway that increases retention, provides additional enrichment to students, increases accessibility of scholarships, internships, and creates a strong culture of collaboration and excellent work ethic.

The award recipients were honored at the January 16, 2017 Board of Governor's meeting. The award winners received a plaque and cash award of \$4,000 from the Foundation of California Community Colleges, and the Honorable Mention Award winners received a plaque.

For more information on these programs, please visit the Exemplary Award page on the Academic Senate website at: <http://asccc.org/events/exemplary-program-award-o>.

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is a nonprofit professional organization for the faculty of California Community Colleges. It serves 58,000 faculty members throughout the state who impact millions of students annually. For more information, please visit: www.asccc.org.