



The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
DATE: January 13-14, 2014

SUBJECT: 2014 Exemplary Program Award		Item Number: 4.1	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	Academic Affairs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Erik Skinner, Deputy Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	X

ISSUE: This item announces the four 2014 Exemplary Program Award recipients, for recognition by the Board of Governors.

BACKGROUND: The Exemplary Program Awards were established in 1991 by the Board of Governors to recognize outstanding community college programs. As many as two California Community College programs receive cash awards of \$4,000 and up to four programs receive honorable mention plaques. The awards are sponsored by the Foundation for California Community Colleges and provide an excellent opportunity to showcase exceptional programs. Recognizing the importance of assessment in placement, the theme for 2013 – 14 is “Assessment for Placement: Effective Practices, Alternatives, and Improving Outcomes”. Programs that provide innovative strategies for implementing assessment, placing students, preparing students for placement exams, and are scalable are just some of the possible emphases of eligible programs.

Exemplary Program Award recipients are selected from throughout the state, with no more than two from any one Academic Senate area. Each college may nominate one program. Local academic senates are encouraged to form selection committees with representatives from students, staff, administration, and faculty. At the state level, a committee that included representatives of the state administrator groups, students, and faculty evaluated the nominated programs.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is presented for information and discussion.

ANALYSIS: This year, the Academic Senate has selected two Exemplary Award winners and two honorable mentions. These four programs are creating programs to engage first-year students, thereby creating improved learning environments for students.

The awards recognize programs that:

- Show evidence of the overall success of the program;
- Contribute to faculty engagement;
- Demonstrate a response to the needs of students, faculty, and the college;
- Provide evidence that demonstrates how the program supports the community college mission; and
- Can be used as models for other community colleges.

2014 AWARD WINNERS

Santa Monica College

The Santa Monica College's Prep2Test Program has raised student awareness in the importance of preparing for placement exams and improving the percentage of students placing into college-level math and English. This multi-pronged program was developed in response to the increasing number of students placing into developmental mathematics and English courses at Santa Monica College (SMC), who were generally not prepared for the placement tests. Santa Monica College's research revealed no other California community college had developed a comprehensive test prep program – a service that was explicitly clear to the faculty after reading the 2010 publication *One Shot Deal: Students' Perceptions of Assessment and Course Placement in California's Community Colleges*. The program includes a video, website, communications plan and Prep2Test Challenge Quiz. In December 2013, Santa Monica College will launch a Prep2Test app containing review materials, interactive quizzes, Khan Academy mathematics skill-specific videos, performance tracking reports, and readiness feedback modules. The Prep2Test has changed the way Santa Monica College analyzes quantitative/qualitative data, and their new mobile technology will provide global access to this innovative program.

Cañada College

The Cañada College Math Jam Program is an innovative program addressing a campus-wide need for improved performance on the Mathematics Placement Exam and has successfully helped hundreds of Cañada College students test out of remedial math courses and prepare for college level math transfer courses. The goal of this intensive math placement test program is to reduce the completion time to an associate degree and/or transfer to a four-year institution by allowing students the opportunity to improve their math skills, retake the math placement exam, and test into higher-level math courses, thereby shortening the amount of time to transfer and improve the retention and success rates of these students. Created specifically to bridge the disparity between the goals and success rates of Hispanic and African American students in STEM fields, Cañada College math faculty and placement testing staff addressed gaps in math preparation and how to accelerate the progression of students through the math levels required for STEM education. As Math Jam evolved, it became evident that the wide variety of students beyond STEM could benefit from this program and the result was an expansion of Math Jam offerings from one to three

programs per academic year. Cañada College collaborates with a variety of programs ranging from adult learners to English as a Second Language and high school students. In 2013, Math Jam was awarded the J. Russell Kent Exemplary Program Award by the San Mateo County School Board Association for having a positive impact on the students in their community.

2014 HONORABLE MENTION

Willow International Community College Center

“Every student can learn; every student has the right to learn” was the guiding statement for a four-year partnership between Willow International Community College Center and Clovis West High School to focus on Academic behaviors and composition and reading rigor. The relatively low success rate in college attendance for Clovis West graduates was unacceptable, and the faculty at Willow International developed a program to send more prepared students to college. They focused on hard skills (academic language, composition, and reading skills) that were aligned with the student learning outcomes of English 1A and on soft skills (time management, professional deportment, and presentation skills) that would enhance the students’ readiness for college. Now in the third year of implementation of the new curriculum, Clovis Unified School District is seeing enormous growth in the number of students who were successful in high school and went on to college, as well as a change in culture on the Clovis West High School campus. Students are taking their futures seriously, planning their activities and studies so they are fully prepared not only in composition, but in all of their other fields as well.

Norco College

Norco College’s Summer Advantage program began in 2011 when the college identified the need for a program addressing college readiness skills of their incoming freshman. They offered a high school transition experience that required a student to attend an extended college orientation session and select from eight summer experience options. After reviewing the college readiness skills of their 2012 group and the impact of the choices made by their students, Norco College modified the program with their largest Corona- Norco Unified School District 2013 class of seniors, and the Summer Advantage program was born. With a multi-faceted approach to the best placement of students, Summer Advantage moves students through intensive workshops in academic discourse skills and mathematics skills as refresher courses. Faculty assesses the students, combining data from high school transcripts, early assessment program status, and performance in the workshops to more accurately determine the placement. Students must attend a six-hour one-day mandatory orientation where they learn about programs, degrees, special services, registration, and the financial aid process. After this orientation students complete a student education plan and receive early registration as their reward for completing the Summer Advantage program. The success of the program is seeing high percentages of students’ advance one to three levels in math and one to two levels in English.