



The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: January 20-21, 2015

SUBJECT: 2015 Exemplary Program Awards		Item Number: 4.5	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	Information	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:		Consent/Routine	
	Pamela D. Walker, Vice Chancellor	First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:		Action	
	Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Information	X

ISSUE: This item announces the three 2015 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 assisting students as they conclude high school and begin college, the theme for 2014 – 15 is ***“Transitions from High School to College: Assisting Students in Meeting Their Educational Goals.”*** Possible emphases of eligible programs might include enhanced counseling and mentorship programs, early college and bridge programs, and curriculum alignment 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. (***Background cont.***)

RECOMMENDATION: This item is presented to the Board for information.

(Background cont.)

This year, the Academic Senate has selected one Exemplary Award winner and two honorable mentions. These three programs are creating programs designed to improve student success and retention by assisting students with their transition to college.

The awards recognize programs that do the following:

- 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.

2015 AWARD WINNER

Bakersfield College

Developed by faculty, *Making it Happen* (MIH) is a mentoring program that began as a holistic approach to better serve first-generation, economically disadvantaged students transitioning from rural high schools to college. Mentors are assigned to first-time, first-generation students that include faculty, classified staff, and administrators. The MIH program structure involves the entire college community (part and full-time faculty, administrators, management, and classified employees) and allows the institution to operate collaboratively across departments and between instructional and student services professionals. The program strategies begin with setting the students on a path to success by placing them in the highest appropriate level, which has increased the number of students placed into higher level courses and shortened basic skills pathways. These placements, combined with the last several years of basic skills curriculum revision, have saved students over 571 semesters of student work. While developing this program, the college learned that the transition of students from high school to college must begin earlier – in the high schools, even grade schools, and deep within their diverse community.

2015 HONORABLE MENTIONS

Los Angeles Pierce College

Los Angeles Pierce College's *GO Days* (Get Oriented, Get Organized, Get Onboard) New Student Conference assists new students by providing resources to acclimate and help them transition to the college environment. The GO Days conference brings together faculty and staff from around the college to support new students. A committee including administration, student services faculty, academic affairs faculty, and classified staff oversee the planning of a one to two-day student conference that provides a unique way to help students transition to college without additional staff or other significant budgetary resources. Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of workshops such as successful habits, study skills, transfer requirements, course selection, financial aid, and major selection prior to beginning their first semester. As part of Pierce College's

Achieving the Dream strategy, GO Days have been integrated into basic skills, student equity, and student success and support program efforts.

Santa Barbara College

Santa Barbara's *Get Focused...Stay Focused!*TM (GFSF) initiative evolved from the College's Dual Enrollment Freshman Transition and Career Choices course that was initially funded by a grant from The Irvine Foundation. GFSF provides students with a pathway to post-secondary pursuits via dual enrollment and contextualized learning opportunities. Currently, the college offers more than 100 dual enrollment sections at the public high schools in the college's area, serving more than 2,500 high schools students each semester. While partnering with local high schools, Santa Barbara sought to address equity issues with a freshman transition class for all 9th graders and this course is now a graduation requirement. GFSF was designed to provide every student with the necessary information and experiences to develop essential college and career readiness skills.