

| Student Success Initiative | What is it? | What are we doing? | Where can I learn more? |
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| <p>Achieving the Dream</p> | <p>Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count is a national initiative to help more community college students succeed (complete courses, earn certificates and earn degrees). The initiative is particularly concerned about student groups that have faced the most significant barriers to success, including low income students and students of color.</p> | <p>DCCC was selected to become a part of the initiative during Spring 2010 and spent the 2010-2011 year planning. Planning included looking at the data about our students, gathering feedback from the college community, and determining areas of focus. Based on feedback and data, a pilot group including first time full time male students was chosen to pilot interventions aimed at improving student success. The pilot of interventions will begin Fall 2011 with first time full time male students in the School of Business, Engineering and Technical Studies. The priorities and interventions identified focused on increasing the percentage of students who complete developmental and gateway math and the percentage completing a credential by the end of year three of enrollment.</p> | <p>All DCCC faculty and staff are enrolled in a Student Success Blackboard course.</p> <p>www.achievingthedream.org</p> |
| <p>Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)</p> | <p>Each institution applying for accreditation or renewal of accreditation is required to develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Engaging the wider academic community and addressing one or more issues that contribute to institutional improvement, the plan should be focused, succinct, and limited in length. The QEP describes a carefully designed and focused course of action that addresses a well-defined topic or issue(s) related to enhancing student learning.</p> | <p>Our QEP is to create a First Year Experience for our students. This experience will have three parts. Students will be required to meet with an enrollment counselor to discuss their program of study and the skills required to be successful. Students who are uncertain as to their program of study will meet with someone from career development to help them plan their future. Students will also be required to participate in an orientation session. This session will have three components: academics and advising, financial aid, and college culture. In addition, their family members are invited to participate in a family orientation session. Finally, our first year students will be required to complete ACA 090 Study Skills in their first semester. ACA 090 uses <i>On Course</i>, a program which emphasizes personal growth along with college strategies for success.</p> | <p>www.sacscoc.org</p> |
| <p>Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant</p> | <p>A U.S. Department of Education program that helps eligible Institutes of Higher Education become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability of eligible institutions.</p> | <p>We anticipate that we will be eligible to apply for this highly competitive program again in Spring 2012. In anticipation, we have just completed a visit with Richard Marchese who will be our consultant on this project. In order to determine the focus of our grant application, we will begin to analyze our data related to student success and determine the institution's strengths, weaknesses and significant problems.</p> | <p>http://www2.ed.gov/programs/iduestitle3a/index.html</p> |

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| <p>Completion by Design</p> | <p>Completion by Design is a five-year Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation initiative that works with community colleges to significantly increase completion and graduation rates for low-income students under 26. The initiative will help provide needed structure to the community college experience. Selected community colleges in states across the country will implement proven and effective practices that support every student, from the day they step onto campus, until the day they earn their degree or complete their credential.</p> | <p>The North Carolina cadre is a finalist for this initiative. The cadre consists of GTCC, DCCC, CPCC, Wake Tech, Martin CC, and the system office. We expect an announcement to be made on May 26 (so watch your local news that evening and keep a check on our website). If we are selected, we will spend approximately 12 months in a planning process to identify the proven and promising practices that would contribute to student success through a model pathway from connection with the College to completion.</p> | <p>http://www.completionbydesign.org/ http://www.completionbydesign.org/sites/default/files/cdat_loss&momentum_r101.pdf</p> |
| <p>Aspen Prize</p> | <p>The purpose of the Aspen Prize is to recognize community colleges with outstanding academic and workforce outcomes in both absolute performance and improvements over time. By focusing on student success and lifting up models that work, the prize will honor excellence, stimulate innovation, and create benchmarks for measuring progress.</p> | <p>Davidson County Community College is one of 120 colleges chosen to compete for the \$1 million award from The Aspen Institute. We are currently working on our application and data templates due on June 15 for Round 2 of this process. The \$1 million prize will be given in late 2011 to reward excellence and recognize community colleges with outstanding academic and workforce outcomes.</p> | <p>http://www.aspeninstitute.org/policy-work/aspen-prize/about</p> |
| <p>Starfish Retention Solutions</p> | <p>Starfish Retention Solutions is a software package that will allow us to efficiently identify at-risk students in real time, track our intervention efforts, promote personalized support services to all students, enable online appointment scheduling to connect students with our college community, and assess the overall effectiveness of your student success initiatives.</p> | <p>We have purchased this software and are currently working with the Starfish team to identify our priorities for a pilot group of students in select developmental courses this summer. We will begin using this software with faculty and staff associated with our AtD pilot group in the Fall and other cohort groups. A full roll-out is expected in Spring 2012.</p> | <p>http://www.starfishsolutions.com/</p> |