



ACADEMIC SUPPORT NEWSLETTER

LEARN MORE IN LESS TIME WITH GREATER EASE AND CONFIDENCE

Spring 2003 Issue

Academic Support Center
Academic Support Lab
Tutoring
Courses
Workshops
Adjunct Study Skills
Learning Communities
Faculty/Student Assistance

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TEST YOURSELF! Some of you have been at Cuesta a long time; others have just begun. Take this inventory to see how much you incorporate academic support into your teaching. **Do you:**

- Frequently refer students to academic tutoring?
- Suggest students enroll in reading, spelling, math, and grammar courses?
- Model effective study habits by showing how they apply to your course?
- Know that you can refer students to LS 101 Learning Skills Lab to improve their basic skills up to April 11, 2003?
- Know that we can develop Adjunct Study Skills sections to go with your course to help students improve content-specific academic strategies?
- Know that tutoring is now available on the North County campus?
- Suggest students enroll in the late-starting 9-week *College Success* and *Grammar Essentials* courses to improve their grades?
- Teach students to generate essential questions while reading and during a lecture?
- Offer extra credit to watch instructional videos on procrastination, test taking, note taking, listening, editing, reading, studying, and math anxiety, among others?
- Invite us into your classes to present a learning strategy needed for success in your discipline?
- Attend some of the Flex Workshops on active learning, increasing textbook comprehension, and teaching study skills?
- Encourage attendance at the Student Success Workshops?
- Know that Cuesta has successfully piloted its first Learning Community?

If you scored between 10-13, drop by the Academic Support Center, Building 3300, for a prize. If you didn't, please drop by for some information and fliers.

FALL 2003 ANNOUNCEMENTS

TWO NEW LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Thanks to Connie Gannon, Carlotta Durazo, and Mary Parker, two additional Learning Communities are currently being developed. English 100 *Basic Reading & Writing*, Lrn Sk 104 *Reading Essentials*, and Counseling 52 *Orientation to College for Re-entry Students* will be integrated with a career success theme. Workforce Development Projects is funding this cluster taught by Alisa Klinger, Berta Parrish, and Kat Blume, respectively. Furthermore, a new course, Lrn Sk 93B *Reading & Study Skills for Nursing* will be linked with a lab section of BIO 4 *General Bacteriology*. Mary Hastings and Evy Cheatham will teach in this pre-nursing Learning Community hybrid funded by the Nursing Workforce Initiative that aims to increase persistence in the nursing program.

MARK THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2003 ON YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

During the site visit by the National Learning Community Project, Marcos Cicerone (De Anza College) and Ana Torres Bower (Cerritos College) will present two Flex Workshops: "*Defining and Designing Learning Communities*" and "*Collaborative Learning Strategies for More Effective Group Work*."

TEST & PERFORMANCE ANXIETY, a new 9-week short course, is for students who experience excessive anxiety while taking a test, studying for math, giving a speech, and/or participating in a sports event.

SPRING 2003 HAPPENINGS

LEARNING COMMUNITY TASK FORCE IS FORMING

We are looking for people to serve as a leadership team for Cuesta College's Learning Communities initiative. With representation from the Basic Skills/Academic Support Committee; Math, English, Academic Support, Counseling, and Humanities departments; Associated Students; the Academic Senate; and a student with experience in a Learning Community, the Task Force will do the following:

- develop a working definition of Learning Communities;

- review proposals and set guidelines with coordination with appropriate committees on campus;
- make recommendations on the nature and scope of Learning communities; and
- promote the Learning Community initiative with faculty, department chairs, counselors, and students.

If you are interested, please call Berta Parrish at extension 2484.

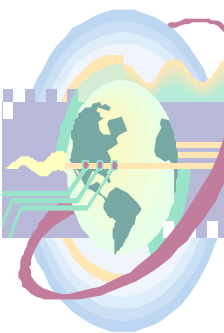


PLATO INTEGRATED LEARNING SYSTEM NOW IN THE ACADEMIC SUPPORT and ESL LABS.

Lab students now have a greater choice in skills, topics, and difficulty levels with these computer-assisted and computer-managed instructional modules in reading, writing, math, ESL, and employability skills. All the lessons are designed with objectives based on learning outcomes and competency based mastery criteria. Visit the Academic Support, Building 3300, for a demonstration!

Tutoring works!

TWO ADJUNCT STUDY SKILLS COURSES



Cheryl Ziehl (Academic Support Instructor) and Darlene Smith (Psychology) are continuing the adjunct study skills offering that was piloted last semester. The students who participated in the fall semester expressed a high level of satisfaction and earned a 91.6% success rate in Psychology 1A.

Mary Hastings (Tutorial Coordinator) and Dennis Judd (History) are working together at the North County Campus to pilot a section of adjunct study skills for his History 7B course. Students receive weekly group tutoring, work in the Lab on selected academic strategies needed to succeed in History, and attend various workshops for .5 credit.

The research proves what we have always known—tutoring improves grades! The students who received more than 10 hours of tutoring, earned a success rate of 85.8%, statistically significant from those who did not receive any tutoring. So, help your students achieve—refer them to Tutorial Services.

Mixed Media Messages— First Learning Community—A Success

With students comparing the experience to "eating ice cream on a hot day," Cuesta's first Learning Community is a success by all standards. In focus groups and on surveys, excited students praised the caring instructors, the integrated assignments, the growing friendships, the collaborative activities, and the encouraging support they received. The instructors Cheryl Ziehl, Lynn Steiner, Allison Merzon were impressed with the

engaged students who grew in commitment, collaboration, confidence, responsibility, openness, ability, risk-taking, and supportiveness of each other throughout the semester. The retention rate was very high, with 85% of the students completing all three courses. Next fall, **Mixed Media Messages** will cluster English 56 *College Reading & Writing*, LRN SK 102 *College Success* and Health Ed 2 *Health Education* with the same dedicated and talented instructors. The Learning Community has set a high mark for the ones to follow!

