STUDENT SUCCESS BEST PRACTICE:
CENTRAL VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Virginia's Community Colleges

ADDRESS: 3506 WARDS ROAD
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STUDENT SUCCESS CATEGORY --

- [V] ACADEMIC PROGRAM
- [V] STUDENT SERVICES
- [ ] WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- [ ] COLLEGE BUSINESS PRACTICE
- [ ] TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION
- [ ] OTHER:

TITLE: "RE-WRITING THE FUTURE: STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH CVCC'S WRITING CENTER AND PEER TUTORING PROGRAM"

PROCESS

CVCC's Writing Center and Peer Tutoring Program emerged during the development of a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) as part of CVCC's reaffirmation process with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC). The process involved input from key constituency groups (faculty, staff, students, community) and the analysis of research including national data, the VCCS Developmental Education Redesign, Achieve 2015 and institutional data including existing tutoring services on campus. The QEP team consisted of faculty, staff, administrators and students. The QEP team formed subcommittees to address key areas of development including budget, marketing, facilities, assessment and supporting research.

STRATEGY & IMPLEMENTATION

The QEP team conducted research, which resulted in the identification of the need for an increase in tutoring services for developmental English students. Best practices research showed the need for the development of a separate space for writing assistance as well as the benefits of a peer tutoring program. Students enrolled in developmental English courses are required to meet with one peer tutor and one professional tutor during the semester. To develop the center, the college hired a Writing Center Director and created a process for hiring and training peer tutors.

ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION

CVCC's Writing Center served 384 students in 2015-16. Fifty-eight percent of developmental English students participated in sessions with peer or professional tutors. Success rates for students in developmental English have increased from 62% in 2014-15 to 77% in 2015-16. In 2015-16, 63% of developmental English students were enrolled in simultaneous remedial English coursework (ENF3) while completing college-level English (ENG111) with a 78% success rate. Writing Center user survey results indicated that 51% of students had 4 or more appointments and that 100% planned to return.

PLAN FOR SCALE & SUSTAINABILITY

Scale - The Writing Center expanded its hours of operation beginning Fall 2016 in order to provide services to more students at CVCC. We also began offering tutoring services via Blackboard Collaborate to provide Writing Center services to students at off site centers. The Writing Center continues to offer and expand on writing related workshops for the college community.

Sustainability - The Writing Center is an established space on campus with permanent staffing that will remain part of student services offered at CVCC.

COLLEGE DESCRIPTION

CVCC is a two-year state community college located in Lynchburg, Virginia. Established in 1966, CVCC serves students in the City of Lynchburg and the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Campbell and Bedford. CVCC offers credit (transfer and Career Technical Education (CTE)) and non-credit educational programs. CVCC served 6,144 (2,156 FTES) in 2015-16. National, state and local parks offer unlimited recreational opportunities for hiking, biking, fishing, canoeing and camping. The Skyline Drive, Shenandoah National Park and Blue Ridge Parkway draw visitors from around the world to view the scenic vistas of the Shenandoah Valley. A four-season climate means year-round outdoor recreational activities from skiing at Massanutten resort to golfing at one of the many championship golf courses in the area to hiking the Appalachian Trail.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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