

Student Success Innovators Program/Initiative Description

Date: April 11, 2013

Program Name: Freshman Academy

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Primary Recipients

(Check all that apply) Employee Professional Development Grossmont Students Cuyamaca Students High School Students

Number of students/faculty (approx.) served this year: 155

Brief Description:

- **100-150 words or less**
- **Identify major project components**

Purpose: The Freshman Academy program was identified in response to the goals of both the Student Success Committee and the Kingsborough FIPSE grant collaboration. The primary goal of the project is to develop and implement an intervention and support program for all first-year college students, in an effort to increase course success and persistence both Fall to Spring, and Fall to Fall.

The elements of the Freshman Academy include:

- 1) Linked classes: English 98/98R, Counseling, and a GE course
- 2) Smaller class sizes
- 3) Contextualized/themed curricula
- 4) Student activities

Starting with five cohorts during the 2012-13 school year, we have expanded to seven cohorts for the 2013-14 school year. We will continue to expand program offerings, with the intention of developing systems that support all first-time college students.

Objective/Goals:

Goals:

- 1) Improve outcomes for basic skills students: course success and persistence
- 2) Increase percentage of students retained Fall to Fall
- 3) Strengthen awareness of careers/majors and related completion rates

Funding Source(s):

General Fund

Evidence of Success:

Data from Fall 2012 indicates higher success and retention rates in English 98:
Retention: 92%
Success: 90%

Next Steps to Program Improvement:

We will increase the number of cohorts from five to seven, serving an additional 65 students. We continue to strengthen and expand links to include additional faculty and students.