



LEARNING CENTER CHRONICLE

Fall 2013

News from your on-campus community for academic support

Message from the Director

Important Dates

August 27: Reading Apprenticeship Workshop

Sept. 5: Student Success Workshop: Strategies for Classroom Success

Sept. 12: Student Success Workshop: Motivation and Goal Setting

Sept. 19: Student Success Workshop: Managing Your Time

Sept. 24: Reading Apprenticeship Workshop

Oct. 3: Student Success Workshop: Learning Styles & Study Strategies

Oct. 10: Student Success Workshop: Preparing and Performing on Exams

Oct. 22: Reading Apprenticeship Workshop

Nov. 19: Reading Apprenticeship Workshop

Dear CSM Community, Welcome Back!

On behalf of the CSM Learning Center staff, thank you for your support. It has been just over two years since we began our work in developing a comprehensive academic support center for students.

In this time, we have collaborated with Academic Senate and existing centers to coordinate support services on campus. For the year to come, the Learning Center staff is excited about our role in promoting and supporting institutional initiatives, in particular, Reading Apprenticeship, Supplemental Instruction, and S.M.A.R.T. (peer mentoring). Currently, we are in the process of expanding our peer tutoring program and online resources for distance education students.

The success of our Center is due to the support of so many dedicated administrators, staff, students, and faculty. I would like to acknowledge the constant support of our Deans and Directors, as well as, thank staff members **Kathy Chaika, Arlene Fajardo, and Annie Theodos** for their often unsung, behind-the-scenes commitment to our students' success. Information Technology Services' attentiveness to our technology needs has ensured quality services; thank you, ITS.

Faculty members in numerous departments have been instrumental in the success of our programs. For dedicating so much time to their students in the Learning Center, I personally want to thank **Jim Clifford, Cynthia Erickson, Yin Mei Lawrence, Steven Lehigh, and Kristi Ridgway**. Also, thank you to the members of the Learning Support Centers Coordination Committee (LSC³) for their time and energy in coordinating learning support services campus-wide.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the Basic Skills Initiative Committee (BSI) for their unwavering commitment to innovation, and acknowledge the strong leadership they have demonstrated.

Jennifer Mendoza, Ph.D.
Director, Learning Center

With supporting faculty and proud parents in attendance, peer tutors celebrated earning CRLA certification.



Did You Know:

In our first year offering peer tutoring in the LC, **638 students** received tutoring for a total of **1,125 hours**.

Fast Approaching for Spring '14

- ◆ The Learning Center and the BSI committee will be piloting a Supplemental Instruction tutoring model in a small number of classes beginning Spring 2014. This program, developed at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, employs student-lead study sessions in support of traditionally difficult courses.
- ◆ Furthering our commitment to increased accessibility, the Learning Center will be bringing online tutoring to the campus in Spring of 2014. There are differing modes and models available and we are in the process of reviewing and testing to determine the best fit for CSM.



Fun Fact from the Foundation for California Community Colleges

"When Community College students transfer, they earn grade point averages equal to or better than students who started out as freshmen at the same four-year universities."

Pathway to College: Summer Success

Collaboration is the key to successful program design at CSM. *Pathway to College* is a two-week summer program of student preparation in basic skills math and English and eases first-time college students' transition to CSM.

Twenty-nine students completed the Pathway program. More than half (**52%**) placed into a higher level math class and 6 (**21%**) reassessed two math levels higher.

"I saved \$432 dollars by placing into Math 120...This intense two week program on ALEKS really helped a lot."

Pathway students continuing in the Fall and Spring semester will have on going support from peer mentors as part of the Learning Center's S.M.A.R.T. program.

New Online Resources

For students who cannot attend the Student Success Workshops, the LC offers online video tutorials in study tips & note taking, time management, test taking and more. See what's available at:

<http://www.studentlingo.com/collegeofsanmateo>

"Every semester, I tour the Learning Center with my evening classes and students really appreciate discovering the excellent resources there."

Cynthia Erickson, Business Instructor



S.M.A.R.T. mentors take a break during the Pathway to College program.

Pathway to College students working on reading and writing strategies.



Pathway program collaborators (left—right) Ron Andrade (LC), Autumn Newman (English) and Cheryl Gregory (Math).