



Basic Skills Buy-in

Why faculty wanted to participate

"After reading the poppy copy, I was convinced that this funded statewide initiative is one of the most important educational movements in the state, and I wanted to be part of this important work."

"I wanted to participate in a cross-campus work group to increase student success in the basic skills classes, especially since these are the majority of our students."

"I have a deep commitment to increasing the educational attainment levels of our students and a desire to stop worrying about transfer enrollments-- we will not have any students if we do not help our basic skills students move up."

"I believe that all of our students and faculty have concerns that revolve around the basic skills issues of our students, and the basic skills committee is a place to tackle that."

"I wanted to improve the retention of students in developmental levels."

"I joined to get help developing and expanding the student tutoring program that reaches out to students who lack necessary skills to succeed in transfer courses."

"The Learning Center holds workshops and provides tutoring across the curriculum, so I believe that the basic skills initiative can support us."

Fall 2007

- Large Task Force
- Collected Data
- Conducted Assessment
- Faculty and staff influenced by data and convinced that basic skills is important

Spring 2008

- **Constructing Basic Skills Committee**
 - Overcame challenges from internal senate issues around committee existence and structure
 - Invited all faculty to join
 - Personally approached faculty who appeared to already be concerned with the basic skills issues of their students
 - Struggled for participation from counseling...now they're committed!
 - Still struggling for participation from Math

What Helps

- **Having faculty who are interested in education as a tool of social justice**
- **Having a committed administrator who can convince other administrators and break down bureaucratic boxes**
- **Data and numbers**

What We Learned

- E-mail is not enough
- Adjunct involvement is hard to get
- Just a flashy flier won't sell
- So...You have to talk to people one-on-one

Fall 2008

- Our committee consists of 17 people, representing departments across the campus; the members include Counseling, ESL, Reading and English, Accounting and Finance, History, Learning Center, Math, Art History, and Student Services, as well as three deans.

Implementation of First Project Crossing Borders
