Student Engagement: 
Ideas that 
Improve Success & Retention

2011 AMATYC Conference
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Wildwood Campus

Video Comedy       Today's College Student
It’s about helping them reach the goal.
Which best describes your institution’s culture?

- Student-Centered
- Teacher-Centered
- Learning-Centered
The Center provides information about effective educational practice in community colleges and assists institutions and policymakers in using that information to promote improvements in student learning, persistence, and attainment.

www.ccsse.org
The Center for Community College Student Engagement

- The Survey of *Entering Student* Engagement
- The *Community College Survey* of Student Engagement
Save the Link!

www.ccsse.org
CCSSE
Community College Survey of Student Engagement

- Questions are Research-Based
- Questions assess institutional practices & student behaviors that are correlated highly with student learning & student retention

Link to survey's Annotated Bibliography

www.cccse.org
SENSE
Survey of Entering Student Engagement

First-time Students
Fourth & Fifth weeks of Fall Semester

www.cccse.org
CCSSE: Five Benchmarks for Student Engagement

1. Active and Collaborative Learning
2. Academic Challenge
3. Student Effort
4. Support for Learners
5. Student-Faculty Interaction
Six Benchmarks for Entering Student Engagement

1. Early Connections
2. High Expectations and Aspirations
3. Clear Academic Plan and Pathway
4. Effective Track to College Readiness
5. Engaged Learning
6. Academic and Social Support Network
Summing it Up for Math Faculty

1. Use **Active and Collaborative Learning** Techniques
2. **Challenge** students **Academically**
3. Increase **Student Effort**
4. Encourage students to use the **Math Tutoring** Center
5. Improve **Student-Faculty Interaction**
6. Make **Early Connections** with students
7. Demonstrate your **High Expectations & Aspirations** for students
8. Help student make a **Clear Academic Plan and Pathway**
9. Make sure students who place into **developmental courses are placed correctly**.
10. Provide students with **Engaged Learning** opportunities
11. Help create **Academic and Social Support Networks** for students
We need to Realize that Students **Come** to us with the **Intention of Succeeding**

Link to CCSSE Video
1. Use Active and Collaborative Learning Techniques!
Active and Collaborative Learning

Examples

• Ask questions in class or contributed to class discussions
• Make a class presentation
• Work with other students on projects during class
• Work with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments
• Tutor or teach other students (paid or voluntary)
• Participate in a community-based project as a part of a regular course
• Discuss ideas from readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)

www.ccsse.org
Active and Collaborative Learning

“Students learn more when they are actively involved in their education and have opportunities to think about and apply what they are learning in different settings.”

www.ccsse.org
True or False?

Group Work is Collaborative Work.
2. Challenge students Academically!
Academic Challenge

“Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality.”

www.ccsse.org
Academic Challenge

How do we challenge our students without overwhelming them?
3. Increase Student Effort
Student Effort

“Students’ behaviors contribute significantly to their learning and the likelihood that they will attain their educational goals. ‘Time on task’ is a key variable, and there are a variety of settings and means through which students may apply themselves to the learning process.”

www.ccsse.org
Student Effort

How do you Squeeze more effort out of your class?

• Pizza Party Competitions (93% & 85%)
• The magic “Quiz” word
• Re-work Tests
• Extra Credit
Notice that this student’s lack of success comes down to **student effort**...

...but *what could the instructor have done* to encourage more student effort earlier in the semester?

[Link to Video about Grades](#)
Students don’t do Optional!
4. Encourage students to use the Math Tutoring Center
Support for Learners

“College students benefit from services targeted to assist them with academic and career planning, academic skill development, and other areas that may affect learning and retention.”

www.ccsse.org
How do you get students to the Tutoring Center?

• Make it Worth their Time and Effort!
• Exchange it for special privileges.
• Extra Credit
5. Improve Student-Faculty Interaction
Student-Faculty Interaction

In general, the more interaction students have with their teachers, the more likely they are to learn effectively and persist toward achievement of their educational goals.

www.ccsse.org
**Student-Faculty Interaction**

**Examples:**

- Use e-mail to communicate with an instructor
- Discuss grades or assignments with an instructor
- Talk about career plans with an instructor or advisor
- Discuss ideas from readings or classes with instructors outside of class
- Receive prompt feedback (written or oral) from instructor
- Work with instructors on activities other than coursework

www.ccsse.org
Student-Faculty Interaction

Collaborative Learning in the Classroom is a Great Way to increase Student–Faculty Interaction.
6. Make *Early Connections* with students
Student Persistence and Success is Everyone’s Business.

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When will we stop saying, “That’s not my job”? 
7. Demonstrate your High Expectations & Aspirations for students

LINK TO VIDEO
High Expectations & Aspirations

Nearly all students arrive at their community colleges intending to succeed and believing that they have the motivation to do so.
High Expectations & Aspirations

When entering students perceive clear, high expectations from college staff and faculty, they are more likely to understand what it takes to be successful and adopt behaviors that lead to achievement.
High Expectations & Aspirations

How can we as faculty demonstrate to students that we have High Expectations & Aspirations for them?
High Expectations & Aspirations

Look to your right.

Look to your left...
8. Help student make a Clear Academic Plan and Pathway
9. Make sure students who place into developmental courses are placed correctly.
10. Provide students with Engaged Learning opportunities.
11. Help create Academic and Social Support Networks for students.

[Image of students]

CCCSE - ISS – Video (4th one)
Academic & Social Support Network

Examples:

• Clearly explain support services available at your campus
• Clearly explain course grading policies
• Clearly explain course syllabi
• Help students learn one-another’s names
• Learn students’ names
Student Persistence and Success is Everyone’s Business.
So, what can we do this Semester?

Can you think of one new idea that you will take back this semester to hold on to one more student?
Thank you for attending the session today. Feel free to contact me with questions or comments!

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Student Persistence and Success is Everyone’s Business.