

**‘DBA: An Introduction’
Video Text Transcript**

Student: One word to explain it would be

Student: Exciting

Student: Exciting

Student: Exciting

Student: Amazing

Faculty: Positive

Student: Fun, exciting

Student: Interesting

Student: Engaging

Student: Transformative

Student: It’s new, it’s fresh

Student: It’s different

Dr. Michelle Merrill: Openhearted

Katherine Koelle: Empowering

Student: Empowering

Student: Fulfilling

Student: Powerful

Student: Powerful

Student: Awesome

Student: Awesome

Diego Navarro: The industrialized educational model that we have in community colleges today, doesn’t necessarily meet the needs of a lot of these students.

Student: There was no nope and a lot of kids uh, come into any institution thinking that.

Katherine Koelle: Our society and the way everything works, we don’t empower students. When you help someone to see what their power is and their gifts are, that’s more effective.

Terry Johnson: This brings the people element back into education.

Diego Navarro: When I was at Harvard Business School I sat in the classroom with other kids, and these kids had parents who ran corporations. We need those skills to be in the hands of all of us, so we can choose how we want the future to go.

Terry Johnson: I believe that the, the success that they will find in college, though very desirable, is only the beginning. Their success is is is, bound to go forward.

Student: Coming back here, uh, there is a lot more opportunities to explore my inner most desires you know, being able to find a career that moves me where I will be happy.

Dr. Teresa Macedo: It is not instructor centered learning in a traditional sense.

Cheryl Lema: It is structured down to the minute, and there is something new happening.

Diego Navarro: You've got to light the fire inside the students, and then we do academic preparation, focus on self discipline and self management, and career preparation.

Diego Navarro: There are three weeks that are a little bit different, and that's the foundation course. It's the first two weeks of the semester and the ninth week in the middle.

Diego Navarro: The very first week, we focus on your styles.

Katherine Koelle: The whole week has been kind of a combination of learning about yourself, learning about how you connect with other people, learning about how you learn what your learning styles are.

Diego Navarro: You have certain strengths in learning, but if you don't know what those strengths are, you are not going to be able to reinforce them. Okay, so what we do in the very first week is help you figure out how you learn uniquely.

Student: The Academy teaches you, um, your learning styles, how to learn better, and how you learn best and what your weaknesses are.

Student: What you look at, at this, in this class is something that I never really thought about.

Maurice Jones: It will help students get through um, their program by relying on themselves.

Diego Navarro: One of the ways that you can get people to accelerate to college level in one semester is that you provide them with classes that are college level, so they can see where they need to be, and so our goal is to get students to college level in one semester. What we do is we focus on making sure you get through the first semester, you're prepared for college and you can carry a full load.

Student: Being a full-time student in college is really really hard, but you know like if I did it, I totally think that they can do it too.

Diego Navarro: In a lot of these jobs that make good money you have to be able to work in teams.

Kristin Wilson: Being able to build a team that you can work with, and understanding the dynamics of how you work with a team of people who have vastly different styles than you. Once you've done it one time, you can go into another team and bring all those insights with you.

Diego Navarro: So what we do is we help you learn how to be successful on teams, but not only that, if you can start to see what type people are, you can start to lead the team, because you know how to mold it.

Diego Navarro: One of the things I am really interested in is creating future leaders for our country, because my philosophy is, whatever we are teaching executives we should be teaching our youth.

Student: Now I know I can take charge of others, and not so much as a bad way, but in a good way for me because I have two children.

Student: I learned that I can be a positive leader.

Dr. Teresa Macedo: We're not just touching the lives of the students in our classrooms in these in these programs, but then they go out and make change in the world.

Diego Navarro: So one of the things that I want our students to learn is social change, and I want them to learn about social justice.

Diego Navarro: For the final project helps them become the expert. Sometimes that is the first time in their life that they have done that.

Student: I know I am going to be helping the community, in one way or another.

Diego Navarro: What we do in our program is we help you see things that you've never seen before.

Student: You really learn a lot about yourself and about others. It's not only things you can apply educationally, but things you can apply to your life.

Student: Before entering this program, I didn't know what I wanted to do. I didn't know really what type of person I was.

Student: It makes you look inside, because you gotta fix what's in here first, before you can fix what's out there.

Diego Navarro: They've had a reflection of themselves that isn't really who they are, and they believe the story.

Student: Now coming here I know that I can do anything I want to.

Student: I thought I was just going to get like a two-year degree, but now I want to go to the university and become a pediatrician.

Student: The Academy helps you to believe in yourself, to be confident.

Student: The Academy has taught me that, it's not impossible, that anyone can get anything they want in life.

Dr. Hector Cordova: The students start to self disclose about burdens or challenges that they have had to overcome.

Student: We've all been through a lot, everybody has.

Student: I thought that I was the only one that went through the stuff that I had went through in my life, and it turns out that I wasn't.

Diego Navarro: The students just, their hearts open up and they connect with each other.

Terry Johnson: Being exposed to this program was uh, I would say a life changing experience for myself.

Student: Everything is different to me now. I see things in a different way.

Dr. Michelle Merrill: You can tell that they are all changed, and probably changed for life.

Kristin Wilson: I am not an evangelistic kind of person, but I feel that way after having gone through this, it changed me.

Student: It's the way that education should be.

Diego Navarro: When you come together and really connect with each other, you support and pull each other through.

Student: We've been here two weeks, and we've bonded like we're a family, like they're my brothers and sisters.

Student: Everyone listens to each other; everyone is there for each other.

Student: There's going to be a lot more obstacles to overcome, and if you have friends that you can depend on, I think it will be a lot easier.

Student: I have twenty-seven new friends, (laughs) to help me through college, and that's what's really important.

Student: You have fun, and at the same time you learn a lot.

Student: Classes are fun.

Student: We have fun, a lot of fun.

Student: We're all happy, excited. We feel like we want to come back.

Student: It makes you feel more human, more alive.

Student: No student there has dropped out, and um, they're still having fun out there.

Diego Navarro: Every pilot I did I had a hundred percent success, no students left, and the fire was lit. Eighty-three percent of the students passed all of their courses, college level courses.

Dr. Norena Badway: We did not expect for this to happen. The dramatic improvement in enrollment, finishing classes, and asking for letter grades and moving on to the next semester, is as far as we can tell is one of the sure measures of the success of this program.

Kristin Wilson: This cuts across class lines, cuts across race lines.

Michelle Gonzales: It's a program that is interested in the whole person, and there aren't very many programs that care the whole person.

Dr. Teresa Macedo: How better to get students to think about how they have power, than to give them power in the classroom and to give them opportunities to use them.

Diego Navarro: When you're living in the dorms and going to a university, you are learning half your education from your peers. In community college, you don't know the students around you. So you're losing fifty percent of your education.

Diego Navarro: My goal isn't to revolutionize community colleges and change the way that they teach, but to create a bridge that allows these students to bridge into that environment.

Katherine Koelle: It's been heavily researched, they're always improving it, day to day changing things to make them better.

Student: It's nothing like school, it's nothing like do your work, and the teacher gives you an assignment. The teacher is asking you what you're thinking, and how would you feel about this.

Student: When you have an opportunity like this...these are the things that that come across in your life, that you never thought would, but once they do, you gotta to grasp them.

Student: If I could let you inside of my head to let you see everything that I have learned, I would, I mean it's great.

Student: It teaches you that the only thing holding back from greatness is you.

Diego Navarro: Four months, that's all it takes.

Student: It's like a once in a lifetime chance that you're not going to experience any, anywhere else.

Student: If you have the chance, take it.

Student: With this program there's nothing that I can't do. Nothing is going to stop me.