

# STARS Title V Project Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

November, 2010

Cabrillo College

## First Year Experience takes off with Summer Bridge

### Special points of interest:

- Title V is upgrading smart classrooms
- Information Kiosks welcome students
- New reading collections await students
- Math tutors trained in Supplemental Instruction

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The First Year Experience Program is a new and exciting program to support and prepare students for academic success as new college students at Cabrillo College. STARS – Students Transitioning in Academics and Reaching Success—serves students who place at basic skills levels (pre-transfer) in English, reading, and math, and are willing to commit to a full-time, year-long program.

This first year, STARS is focusing on students interested in careers in Allied Health, Human Services and Public Safety. Starting with a four-week Summer Bridge program, courses and activities focus on math skills, reading, college resources, team building and developing a supportive cohort—including finishing a ropes course together!

In addition to taking English, reading, and math in the Fall semester, students in this first pilot also take a Counseling and Guidance course in Career Planning (CG54). In the spring, they continue to the next level of English and math and take their US History re-



STARS students do team building navigating a ropes course high in the redwoods

quirement, along with a Counseling and Guidance course in College Success (CG 1) and a career-related survey course.

A key feature of STARS is Supplemental Instruction (SI) for the math courses students take in both Fall and Spring. SI is highlighted on page 3 of the newsletter, and is a model that has proven to be very effective at raising student success in historically difficult classes, math in particular.

The STARS First Year Experience is off to a great start and students are excited about following the steps to success they laid out in the summer to be effective students in their first year of college!

For more information on STARS FYE, contact the First Year Experience Coordinator Eric Grabiell at (831) 477-3293 or [ergrabiell@cabrillo.edu](mailto:ergrabiell@cabrillo.edu).

## Faculty Inquiry: Using Data to Guide Teaching Practice

Title V/STARS and PRO are working to build faculty inquiry at Cabrillo with the CabrilloFIN (Faculty Inquiry Network) and SOFIA (Student Outcomes for Faculty Inquiry and Analysis). For more information on the CabrilloFIN, see our article on page 2 of the newsletter!

Faculty Inquiry is “a model

of research and professional development in which instructors identify and investigate questions about their students’ learning in order to improve teaching.” (see [facultyinquiry.net](http://facultyinquiry.net))

SOFIA is being developed through faculty focus groups to be a user-friendly system that will

increase the amount and accessibility of student data on student success.

To participate or learn more about CabrilloFIN or SOFIA, contact Sheryl Kern-Jones, Title V Project Coordinator at (831) 477-3292 or [shkernjo@cabrillo.edu](mailto:shkernjo@cabrillo.edu), or Craig Hayward, Dean of IT, Research and Planning at [craig@cabrillo.edu](mailto:craig@cabrillo.edu).

**Meet the STARS Title V Project Team**

Rachel Mayo, Project Director

Rachel has worked at Cabrillo for 21 years and is thrilled to see all the initiatives with the grant becoming reality! As Dean of Education Centers, she has seen the college grow to serve more effectively all areas of our community. The Title V grant will allow the college to make an even greater impact.

underserved communities, and her training as a clinical psychologist and learning disabilities specialist all give her great skills to add to the project team. She is very excited to be working with the initiative!

profit that worked with rural communities in Central America also gives him unique skills in developing this new program at Cabrillo.

Windy Rouse, Administrative Assistant

Windy's former positions supporting busy university programs prepared her well for the demands of our multi-faceted grant initiative, and to learn to navigate our college systems effectively.

The whole Title V team is committed to student success and happy to be at Cabrillo!

Eric Grabiell, First Year Experience Coordinator

Eric's experience with the UCSC-EOPS Summer Bridge and First Year Experience program gives him valuable skills and knowledge to bring to STARS. His work with a local community-based non-

Sheryl Kern-Jones, Project Coordinator

Sheryl's background in evaluation, grant and project management, working with

**Cabrillo Learning Communities – A Joint Effort**

The various Learning Community models that have developed at Cabrillo over the years are working together to coordinate information and outreach efforts in order to make it easier for students, counselors and the college community to become aware of the different options available.

classes, and all are represented on the Learning Community website for Cabrillo at <http://www.cabrillo.edu/services/aces/>.

Learning Community (LC) programs are working in teams to make registration in LCs easier, as well as to improve and simplify other college processes related to LCs. Students in Learning Communities develop friendships and support each other while taking classes together, and the different Learning Community programs also support each other as much as possible to make this valuable experience accessible to the greatest number of students.

Puente, ACE/DBA, REAL and STARS are the primary learning communities for students who assess into basic skills

Dr. Victoria Bañales chairs the Basic Skills and Learning Communities Advisory Council, the umbrella group for Cabrillo's Learning Communities. All provide supportive learning environments that join faculty and students to encourage academic success and the joy of learning.

**Join the Cabrillo FIN (Faculty Inquiry Network) to Share and Learn**

The **Cabrillo Faculty Inquiry Network (CabrilloFIN)** is an online professional networking space for the Cabrillo community. We have grown to over 100 members and are hoping to engage even more!

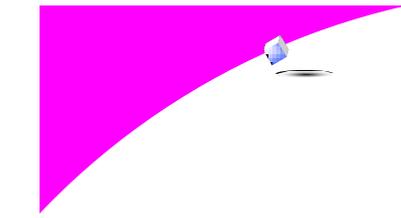
allows members to conduct virtual meetings or form discussion groups. The FIN can reduce the number of emails and face-to-face meetings required to have good departmental communication. Many of your colleagues have started working groups (math instructors, DBA instructors and staff) on the FIN. Others are sharing recent innovations and data. This space belongs to you! Check it out!

success of this resource is getting people to actually use it once they have joined. Members should check in once a week or so to see what's new and get the full benefit of this aid to communication and collaboration.

CabrilloFIN allows members to easily share recent innovations in curriculum, pedagogy, and research findings. Faculty can ask questions of colleagues and post ideas, materials and links to other online resources. It also al-

The greatest challenge to the

To join the CabrilloFIN or get more information about it, please contact Sheryl Kern-Jones, Title V Project Coordinator at (831) 477-3292 or [shkernjo@cabrillo.edu](mailto:shkernjo@cabrillo.edu).



The STARS team from left to right: **Sheryl Kern Jones, Eric Grabiell, Windy Rouse, Rachel Mayo**

Cabrillo's Learning Community programs are working together to make this valuable experience accessible to the greatest number of students.



**LEARNING ABOUT TEACHING, TEACHING ABOUT LEARNING**

**Professional Development Opportunities Offered through Title V**

The Title V project will offer long-lasting benefits to the Cabrillo community through the opportunity for faculty to expand their knowledge and skills. Faculty from diverse departments will be participating in Title V-funded professional development activities. These activities allow us to learn from colleagues at other colleges about best practices and recent innovations. They also foster development of new curricula and new collaborations among faculty at the college. Many of the events focus on learning best practices for working with basic skills students

and methods to foster thriving learning communities. This year, Cabrillo faculty will have the opportunity to participate in:

- On Course Workshop I
- American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) conference
- 30th Annual Conference on the First Year Experience
- California Learning Communities Consortium: Spring Curriculum Retreat

- National On Course Conference
- Learning Communities National Summer Institute

We are also holding specialized training to improve staff skills in support of faculty inquiry (see Page 1) and in the facilitation of Supplemental Instruction for our First Year Experience (see Pages 1 and 3). For more information on professional development opportunities at Cabrillo, contact Sheryl Kern-Jones, Title V Project Coordinator, at (831) 477-3292 or [shkernjo@cabrillo.edu](mailto:shkernjo@cabrillo.edu).



**Mon., Jan 31—Wed., Feb 2**  
**Spring 2011 Flex Week**  
**8:30 am—4:30 pm**  
**Seson House**  
*(Lunch provided)*

**Smart and Friendly: Classrooms, Kiosks, and Collections of Books**

**Smart Classrooms**

Classroom technology brings multi-media capability to teaching offering access to materials and resources beyond the classroom. Students are encouraged to develop comfort and skills in digital technology that will support their academic and future job successes. Title V has funded projectors, screens, and links to the campus network and internet for three classrooms with more on the way.

**Welcome Center Kiosks**

People visiting Aptos or Watsonville campuses will soon have the opportunity to access a touch-screen information center giving them a wide range of information from how to become a student to where to find programs and people on campus. The kiosk website can be found online at: <http://cabrillo.edu/internal/onestop/titlev/>.

**Reading Collections**

To encourage students to learn the joy of reading, the Title V initiative has funded pleasure reading collections in the Watsonville Integrated Learning Center and the Aptos Library. Both collections are filled with fun and popular reading materials to get students to read more, and many of them are enjoying the new books! You may find items of interest for yourself also...

**The Title V Project is making improvements across campus in several ways!**

**Supplemental Instruction Pilot through Watsonville Math Tutoring**

Starting this fall, STARS is piloting an academic support program for select math courses at the Watsonville Center called Supplemental Instruction. The pilot will continue in spring 2011 at the Aptos campus.

In Supplemental Instruction (SI), students work in groups outside of class to review content, strategies for success and different ways of processing the information.

The SI sessions are facilitated by a peer (student) leader, who has received a good grade in the class which he/she has taken recently and has been recommended by the instructor to lead SI sessions. The SI leaders attend class with the students. This allows them to model successful learning strategies in class, plan SI sessions based on material from the class lectures that students find difficult, and do outreach to

encourage students to attend the voluntary SI sessions.

STARS/Title V will host an SI presentation on Friday, November 19th that will show staff, faculty, and administrators how the SI model works at other colleges and how it can be most successful at Cabrillo. To attend or find out more about SI, contact Eric Grabiell, First Year Experience Coordinator for STARS, at (831) 477-3293 or [ergrabiell@cabrillo.edu](mailto:ergrabiell@cabrillo.edu).



Students work out problems in a Supplemental Instruction session at the Integrated Learning Center in Watsonville

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The Title V Project grant at Cabrillo College is funded through the Department of Education's Strengthening Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) program. The ultimate goal of this five year initiative (2009-2014) is to enable a greater number of students assessing into pre-transfer level courses at Cabrillo College to achieve their academic and career goals. This goal is supported by the First Year Experience program, curriculum development, technology upgrades in the classrooms, increased student engagement, the Faculty Inquiry system and professional development for faculty and staff.

**Title V Projects - Increasing Student Success by Strengthening the College**

Visit us online at  
[cabrillostars.org!](http://cabrillostars.org)

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**The Title V Endowment: First Come, First Served by Federal Match**



Students on the last day of the STARS summer bridge program, July 2010

The Cabrillo College Foundation is offering a special opportunity to access Title V Endowment federal matching funds, which are available on a first come, first served basis until September 1, 2014 or until all of the funds have been accessed. A donation of \$7,500 is matched by \$7,500 in federal funds to establish a \$15,000 endowed scholarship.

The hallmark of the Title V Endowment is that for 20

years half of the earnings are reinvested so the Endowment will grow at a much faster rate, ultimately providing larger scholarship awards. The minimum gift amount is \$7,500 for a new scholarship endowment or \$5,000 for an existing scholarship endowment. Gifts may be pledged over a period of two to four years.

Donors may also want to support the Title V STARS and Learning Communities Endowment with a minimum donation of \$500. The STARS (Students Transitioning in Academics and Reaching

Success) and Learning Communities Endowment provides funding to assist students with a strong start in their critical first year of college.

For additional information, please contact Executive Director Melinda Silverstein at [me-silver@cabrillo.edu](mailto:me-silver@cabrillo.edu) or 831-479-6338, or Associate Director Eileen Hill at [eihill@cabrillo.edu](mailto:eihill@cabrillo.edu) or 831-479-6458.