

# TITLE V PROJECT UPDATE

STARS First Year Experience, A Cabrillo College Learning Community

December 2011

Volume 2, Issue 1

## Year Two Cohorts: Focus on English Learners

STARS has launched its most ambitious and diverse year with learning communities in the day and evening, in Aptos and Watsonville, and for students who are learning English as well as English speakers at the basic skills level. A formalized early alert system is part of this year's pilot to increase the success and completion rate.

The English for Bilingual Speakers learning community focuses on English language learners transitioning from ESL 204 in the fall to English 100 in the spring. Students worked on their writing and math skills in a 4-week summer bridge program, and over the course of the year they will take Counseling & Guidance (CG) courses along with their ESL, English, reading and math courses. The CG courses will provide an introduction to college, a review of study skills, and career planning.

The second cohort is a re-pilot of the learning community for students interested in health-related careers who place at the

200 level in English and math. This group of students attended a half-day orientation prior to the start of the fall semester, and will enjoy guest speakers, field trips, and readings that incorporate the health & wellness theme throughout the year as they take courses in English, math, reading, student success and career exploration.

A small third cohort of Early Childhood Education (ECE) students are taking an ESL course linked to ECE curriculum along with a CG study skills course. This cohort will continue in the spring semester with the next sequential course in ECE and ESL, along with a CG course in career planning.

STARS is already planning its third year learning communities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) careers, along with careers in education!!

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

## Smart Classroom Survey Results—How Smart Are They?

In June 2011, 41 full-time and 18 adjunct instructors at Cabrillo completed a survey about smart classroom use. All had taught at least one course in a smart classroom in the last year.

81% used the equipment to project class materials or homework, 78% to project

internet sites or course web pages, and 74% to show videos via the internet to enhance classroom instruction. 90% reported that using the smart classroom equipment provided visual interest, 86% that it increased student engagement, 76% that it demonstrated real-world

applications of concepts, and 64% that it enhanced critical thinking skills.

81% felt they were more effective teachers as a result of using a smart classroom.

In January 2012, Title V will convert 3 more rooms into smart classrooms. Stay tuned!

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<http://cabrillostars.org>

## STARS Title V Professional Development Presents:

# On Course II

## **An Advanced Workshop for Learner-Centered Educators (Pre-requisite: Completion of an On Course I Workshop)**

At the On Course I Workshop, you learned strategies for empowering students to become active, responsible learners. In the On Course II Workshop, you'll not only add to your repertoire of student-empowerment strategies, you'll also learn to design and deliver learner-centered educational experiences that help students move from superficial to deep learning.

These advanced design and facilitation skills are drawn from best practices in academic curriculum design, brain research, learning styles, active-learning principles, corporate training methodology, and personal development strategies.

Strategies presented in this workshop improve both student academic success and retention. View data from a number of colleges and universities at [www.OnCourseWorkshop.com](http://www.OnCourseWorkshop.com) (click on DATA).

Please see information to the right for registration information.

Facilitator: Dr. Jonathan Brennan, English faculty member at Mission College.

Dr. Brennan designed and coordinated an On Course Program at Mission College that has significantly improved the retention and academic success rate of students in developmental English, Mathematics, Reading, and ESL. He also developed the freshman seminar Learning Communities project. Dr. Brennan has received numerous awards and his publications include two books on Mixed Race and Black Indian Literature, as well as a forthcoming textbook on high school student success.

## On Course II

Tues – Fri, Jan 24 – 27

### Sesnon House

Open to Cabrillo faculty who have completed On Course I. Priority given to faculty teaching Basic Skills and those teaching in Learning Communities. Participants must commit to attending all 4 days.

**Free of charge –  
Advance Registration  
Required!**

**Deadline: 5pm, Dec.  
15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday).**

Contact: Sheryl Kern- Jones at  
shkernjo@cabrillo.edu

### WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

**Tues, Jan. 24: 1:00-5:00**

**Wed, Jan. 25: 8:30-5:00**

**Thurs, Jan. 26: 8:30-5:00**

**Fri, Jan. 27: 8:30-12:00**

**(with an optional session  
on Thursday evening 6-9pm)**



## Focus on Building Stronger Readers - the Great Little Books Collection



The Robert E. Swenson library in Aptos and the Integrated Learning Center in Watsonville each have a special circulating collection of books funded by the Title V grant, which is geared toward encouraging basic skills students to read more and thus build their reading skills of knowledge, vocabulary and speed.

For the first year of the grant, the collection was a leased selection of popular fiction designed for general libraries, but our librarians and other staff realized that not many books were being checked out by our students. So for the second year of the grant, they recommended a change in the program.

This resource is now a permanent collection of books, selected based on feedback from students and suggestions from our Reading faculty, librarians and other instructional staff. Most books have no more than 200 pages and include academic subjects as well as themes of interest to a younger Latino population.

There are now between 200 and 250 titles in both the Watsonville and Aptos collections, and monthly average circulation has increased from 16 to 29 per month, or 81% overall. There are many classics and great literature included in the Great Little Books collection - check one out for yourself one day!