



LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Cuesta College
Learning Support
546-3148

Quality Instruction + **Caring Faculty** + **Academic Strategies** = **Student Success**

Inside this issue:

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Special points of interest:

* The next issue will highlight the curricula innovation of **Learning Communities** where a cohort of students take a cluster of classes arranged around an interdisciplinary theme. This intentional restructuring of students' time, credit, and learning experience fosters explicit connections among students, teachers, and disciplines.

This is the equation for more students experiencing more academic success in more Cuesta Colleges courses. It is also the philosophy behind the changing nature of academic support on campus. Students comprehend concepts if they use the appropriate content-specific learning strategy, and they master the strategy if they practice it immediately with a definable and meaningful purpose. The following three approaches improve student performance by refining the necessary academic strategies within the context of a discipline of study.

Supplemental Instruction (SI) courses are linked with a particular section of a high-risk course. The class is lead by a paid, trained SI Leader, a stu-

dent who has successfully completed the course. The SI Leader attends the linked section, takes notes, and discusses with the SI class the best academic strategy for the assignment, therefore, integrating how-to-learn with what-to-learn. Experimental sections of **Elementary and Intermediate Algebra** will include a one-hour per week SI next spring semester.

Facilitator Assisted Learning (FAL) differs from SI in that the student Facilitator earns credit for the training seminar and for leading the weekly sessions to help students with time management, vocabulary practice, written and oral exam preparation, and motivation. The Facilitators receive leadership training in

collaborative techniques and instructors receive feedback about textbooks and course development. Currently, **Human Anatomy and Introductory Chemistry** implement FAL and it has previously been used with **Biology, Zoology, Nursing, Marine Science, French, and Spanish.**

Adjunct Study Skills Courses (ASSC) blend both approaches with individualized instruction. Students from targeted courses enroll for a half-credit co-requisite course to work on focused skill-building using self-paced computer-assisted or video instructional modules, attending learning strategy workshops, and participating weekly in group tutoring. A Learning *Specialist*

Upcoming Spring Flex Activities

Increasing Textbook Reading & Comprehension (205) Jan. 17, 2002 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Learn how to motivate students to read the text and improve comprehension and retention.

Motivation vs Ability: What Matters in Basic Skills Courses? Jan. 17, 2002 1 – 3 p.m.

Explore how to work with the relationship between motivation and ability as well as learning assumptions and suc-

cessful teaching strategies for basic skills students in English, Math, and Learning Skills courses.

Facilitated by Wiesie Ralston and Rich Taylor
Offered by the Basic Skills/Tutorial Committee

Integrated Approaches (con't)

in small group tutoring sessions. A Learning Specialist trains and supervises the tutors and coordinates with the instructors. Mary Hastings, Tutorial Coordinator, and Cheryl Ziehl, Learning Support Instructor, are developing ASSC for **Prealgebra and US Government** for the spring.

All three approaches increase course completion and retention as well as student performance in developmental, vocational, and transfer-level courses alike. If you are interested in learning more about these approaches, call Berta Parrish, Academic Support Coordinator, at 546-3148 or ext. 2484.



Speed Reading & Cyberliteracy course debuts in Spring 2002

Responding to students and staff who are overwhelmed by the information overload of print and online reading, Katy Tomes pilots this innovative course next semester.

Grant provides funds for Developmental

Innovations are "Springing" Up

Learning Communities Project

Three instructors will be planning a Learning Community for English 100 (Basic Reading & Writing), LS 104 (Reading Essentials) and HE 2 (Health Education) for Fall 2002 implementation. A Chancellor's Office grant provides instructor reassigned time, training, material for a Learning Community Resource Center, visits to other colleges with successful Learning Communities, promotion, and attendance at the Evergreen College Summer Institute of Learning Communities. We hope that this is just the first of many Learning Communities for Cuesta College.

Where can you refer students needing learning assistance?

Tutorial Services

Room 3153 SLO

Offers explanation of concepts, study strategies and help with homework. Free tutoring in most subjects provided throughout the semester. Students make appointments. Small group tutoring by trained student tutors with proficiency in their discipline.

Tutorial Center

N5006 North County Campus

"Study Smart"

Brown Bag Workshops

SLO and NC campuses

A series of one-hour workshops on important study skills, including Time Management, Test Anxiety, Math Study Skills, and Note-taking. Other topics can be requested by special programs or groups.

To learn more in less time
with greater ease and
confidence

Learning Skills Lab

LS 101, Room 3153 SLO

Open enrollment until Nov. 9. Students work at their own pace on software and modules in grammar, writing, reading, study skills, spelling, math, ESL, keyboarding, and word processing. Students earn .5 or 1.0 credit units.

LS 101 on the North County

**Campus can be arranged by
calling 591-6215**

Classroom assistance

Classroom Presentations

Are you attending a conference soon? Invite us to come into your class during your absence to teach a lesson on a study strategy essential to learning and mastering your discipline, such as note-taking, time management, textbook study, memory techniques, test anxiety, chapter review approaches, and test taking.

Check out an instructional video to show your class.

We have over 40 instructional videos on academic success skills, reading, vocabulary, writing, and mathematics. Why not preview one? Here's a sample of a few titles:

"How Do I Know What to Study?"

"Overcoming Procrastination"

Videos

"This is a Test, Only a Test"

"Grammar & Punctuation"

"Editing the Paper"

"How to Listen Effectively"

"The Reading Process"

"Improving Mathematics Studying & Test Taking"

"Fractions & Mixed Numbers"

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a

calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for



Caption describing picture or graphic.

your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed inter-

nally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new

employees or top customers or vendors.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter.

There are also several tools you can use to draw

shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.

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Primary Business Address
Your Address Line 2
Your Address Line 3
Your Address Line 4
Phone: 555-555-5555
Fax: 555-555-5555
Email: xyz@microsoft.com

Your business tag line here.

We're on the Web!
example.microsoft.com



Organization

This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a

listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a



Caption describing picture or graphic.

regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.