

HEWLETT

## Leaders in Student Success

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### **De Anza College Named “Hewlett Leader in Student Success”**

*Anaheim, CA, October 2, 2008*

De Anza College received state-wide recognition today for its innovative efforts to increase the success of students in basic skills. De Anza and three other colleges were named “Hewlett Leaders in Student Success” at an educators’ conference in Anaheim, and received a stipend to support efforts to share their strategies with other schools.

Hewlett Leaders in Student Success selected the four schools from among 109 California community colleges. The program seeks out schools that have made significant progress in basic skills education, offering inspiring models of institutional commitment to this issue in mission, planning and practice.

“These innovative teaching strategies and systemic overhauls in basic education are model programs that are proven to help students build the needed foundation in core subjects. They enable students to gain valuable study skills, as well as connect them with orientation programs, tutoring, counseling, and other student support services that will help them to stay in school and succeed,” said Dr. Linda Umbdenstock, the program’s executive director.

De Anza surrounds basic skill students with academic support and student services. The college offers 60 associate’s degrees and 125 certificate programs. Students can take advantage of an extensive network of services to help them navigate through their programs. The Student Success Center, though physically based in one building, is not so much a ‘center’ as a web of academic support, stretching across and connecting diverse student populations and areas of study. The SSC integrates nine support programs, and engages the talents of hundreds of faculty, peer tutors, and staff.

Math is a classic “gatekeeper course,” too often standing between students and their academic goals. De Anza’s outstanding Math Performance Success program increases class and tutorial time, and assigns a counselor as well as tutors to the classroom. Students must apply to the program, and every year many are turned away. Having failed math multiple times is a virtual pre-requisite, which makes the program’s 85 to 95 percent pass rate all the more striking. Students in other math courses benefit from strategies validated at MPS.

Experts from across the country contributed to the selection of the 2008 Hewlett Leaders. Data analyses identified strong programs, and visiting teams made site visits to interview faculty and administrators. The program developed criteria for measuring successful progress.

- Curriculum aligned and organized for effectiveness
- Learner-centered classroom practices
- Integration of academic support and student services
- Equity, pursued by assessing learning and progress rates by cohort
- Institutional leadership and support, reflected in mission, planning, evaluation and investment

Hewlett Leaders in Student Success is administered by the Research and Planning Group of the California Community Colleges and funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The program, in this inaugural year, also honored Santa Barbara City College, Columbia College and Southwestern College.

For more information, visit [www.HewlettLeadersinStudentSuccess.org](http://www.HewlettLeadersinStudentSuccess.org) and [deanza.edu](http://deanza.edu)