

HEWLETT

## Leaders in Student Success

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### **Santa Barbara City College Named “Hewlett Leader in Student Success”**

*Anaheim, CA, October 2, 2008.*

Santa Barbara City College received state-wide recognition today for its innovative efforts to increase the success of students in basic skills. City College and three other schools 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.

Santa Barbara City College has long made service to under-prepared students a top priority. The school’s Partnership for Success, now in its third year, transformed the approach to basic skills education. This broad effort expanded advising and tutoring, and sparked collaboration between academic and student services.

Gateway to Success is a faculty-driven tutoring program developed for basic skills courses. Its impact on retention and success was so persuasive that the program soon expanded to higher-level classes. This fall Gateway will encompass nearly 350 sections

in 42 departments. The college's goal is to have one quarter of all credit-bearing classes offered as Gateway courses.

Basic skills, or "pre-collegiate," education is designed to help underprepared students master the skills required for success in transfer-level courses. The need is vast. Every year roughly half a million students arrive at a California community college with the goal of transferring to a four-year college. But at least 70 percent are not prepared.

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 also honored Columbia, De Anza, and Southwestern colleges.

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