

Inside Solano

STAYING COMMITTED + CONNECTED



APRIL 25, 2016



Grant Focused on Student Success

Q+A

Joshua Scott, English professor
and Basic Skills coordinator

Tell us about the new grant SCC just received.

The Basic Skills Student Outcomes Transformation grant is a \$1.1 million dollar grant, which will be distributed over three years. It will provide support (release time for faculty, logistical support with IT, etc.) for the automation of multiple measures assessment processes in Math and English, so that we can use high school performance as well as validated assessment test results to place students in the appropriate English or math class. It also provides for professional development opportunities for math and English instructors, and to place Supplemental Instructors in basic skills math and English courses.

What will be different about this than what we're already doing?

In English, we've already made some significant changes to our basic

skills sequence, but this grant gives us the opportunity to scale these changes.

The grant will allow us to provide professional development opportunities (summer retreats, participation in a state-wide community of practice, regular meetings throughout the semester, etc) for instructors teaching these classes so that they can teach this new, more diverse population of students well.

The grant also provides support so that we can research and implement multiple measures placement for all students enrolling at SCC. Historically, we've used Accuplacer, a standardized test which is not very predictive of success (roughly 17 percent reliability at predicting success). In English, we have already implemented prerequisites for our classes that incorporate high school GPA and high school English

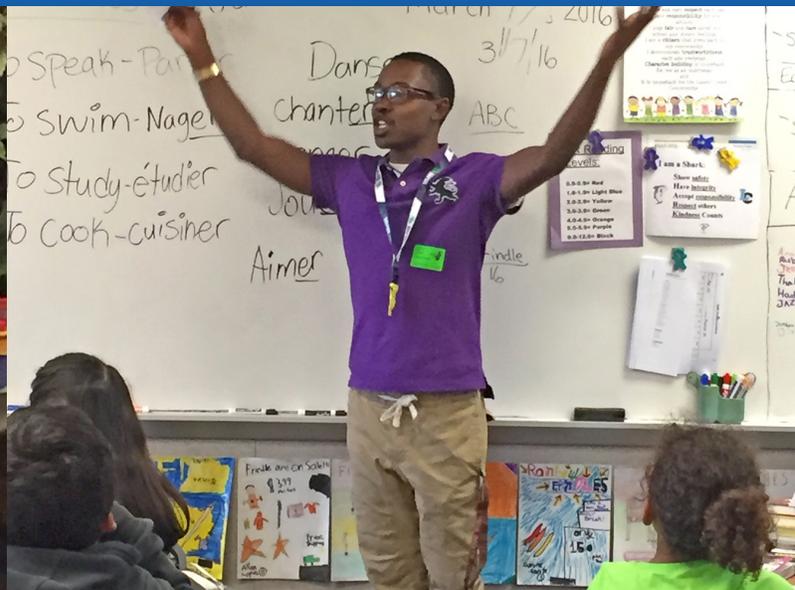
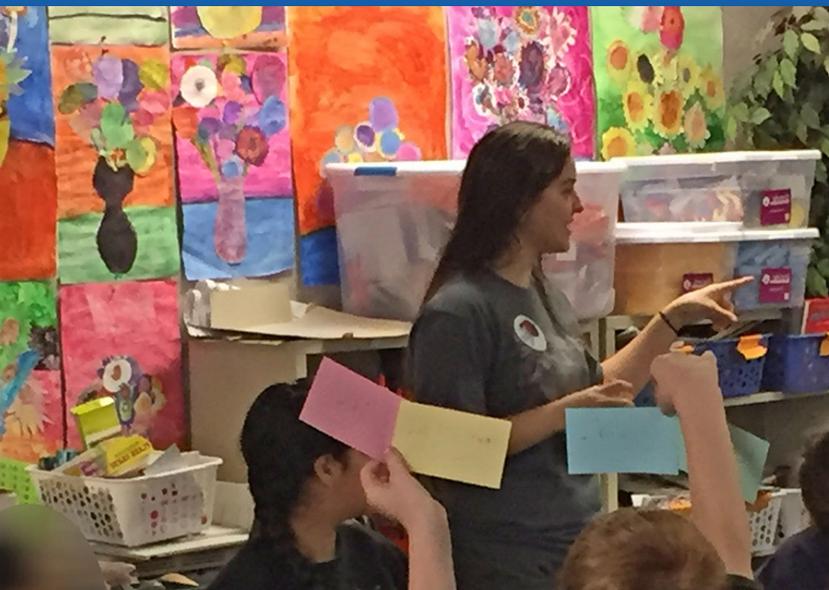
performance (which has an over 80 percent predictive ability), and math plans to use resources from this grant to research multiple measures as well. The grant will provide support to IT as we automate these multiple measures within Banner.

Finally, the grant provides funding to pay current graduate students in math or English to work in our basic skills classes as supplemental instructors (SIs), where they participate in class, lead study sessions, and provide added support to the instructor and the students. In addition to paying SIs with grant money, we can also provide training, evaluation, and support so that SIs who have completed our program and graduated with a Masters Degree will be prepared to teach English and math at our school or other community colleges in the state.

How will this change students' experience?

The goal of this grant is to increase the number of students who complete a transfer-level math or English class within three semesters at Solano Community College. Currently, only 13 percent of our students are taking a transfer-level English class within three semesters, and only 9 percent of our students are taking a transfer-level math course. We believe these changes will increase these numbers significantly, which will also increase the number of students who successfully transfer, earn an Associates degree, or earn a certificate.

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Collaboration in Education

A unique collaboration between students in Cross-age Teaching (FLNG 101) and Work Experience (OCED 909) is resulting in a great opportunity for them and for area elementary students. SCC students enroll in the 2-unit Cross-age Teaching course, where they learn to create lesson plans and activities. They enroll concurrently in OCED Work Experience and go to local elementary schools to present the lessons they created. This collaboration of in-class and experiential learning is a powerful tool and everyone who participates benefits.

Student must work 60 hours for the one unit of work experience credit. They spend their time not only in the course room, but they also work as a team to practice their lessons and create materials to present their lessons to two different groups of elementary students. Meanwhile, they also participate in weekly discussions covering important soft skills.

Debra Berrett, SCC's Occupational Education coordinator, says she is proud of the students and the program. "They work very hard during the semester and I am very proud to see our students so well-received by local area K-12 faculty and universally loved by the elementary students who look forward to their foreign language lessons each week."

Please join us for the Tenure Tea

Thursday, April 28th
3 to 4:30 p.m.
Boardroom

Refreshments will be served

SPONSORED BY THE ACADEMIC SENATE

SCC Nursing Students Honored

Two Solano Community College students received the La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (40/8) scholarship earlier this month. Aprill Krumm, a second-year nursing student, and Jon Henry, a first-year nursing student each received a \$300 scholarship.

The 40/8 organizes a two-year scholarship for nursing students who are veterans or children or spouses of veterans. The recipients get a \$300 scholarship in their first and second year of nursing school. Victor Kestner, the Nurse Training Chairman from the 40/8 organization presented them with their scholarships at the group's annual dinner.