

**Sabbatical Leave Proposal**

**for**

**Spring, 2010**

Review of EOPS Programs'

Efforts in Retention

**Submitted by**

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## **Background Information**

The mission of the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) is to increase the number of eligible EOPS students achieving their educational objective and goals including but not limited to obtaining job skills, occupational certificates or associate degrees and transferring to four-year institutions. This is legislated by Ed Code Article 8, section 69640-69648.

As such, EOPS programs throughout the state are engaged in many innovative programs to achieve the above mission. At Oxnard College, EOPS has been engaged in various retention efforts. I am interested in ascertaining what innovative programs exist among the EOPS programs. I desire to research the information and data regarding the retention challenges and barriers confronting low-income and educationally disadvantaged populations as defined by first generation college student, remedial coursework and/or member of an underrepresented group. It is my hope to identify best practices for this student population. In doing so, I will have compiled successful strategies in the area of retention and thereby acquire persistence data and strategies for this group.

## **Professional Background Information**

I have been a member of the VCCCD community these last 20 years and have been employed full-time by VCCCD for the last 17 years. This is the first time I have applied for a sabbatical leave to conduct research.

## **Proposal**

Since it is EOPS' mandate to increase the number of students that achieve their educational goal, it is important to identify effective EOPS statewide retention programs that lead to Student Success, identifying 'Best Practices.' thereby evaluating their

EOPS Strategy:

- Survey EOPS programs and identify retention programs
- Survey programs for retention rates
- Compile information
- Review Retention models throughout the state
- Visit Campuses and tour programs
- Compile information

In doing the above, I will garner the assistance of a campus researcher to compile a survey to include but not limited to the following elements:

- Is there a retention program?
- Is it noted by the EOPS program as exemplary? Are there results?
- Identify Factors attributing to Student Success and Barriers to Learning
- College demographics
- Other?

It is my hope to conduct a review of research regarding: Retention. In doing so, I will contact the State Chancellor's Office to request help with data gathering and EOPS program research in identifying state programs with retention programs; in collecting data: MIS (retention, persistence, demographics), program review and in identifying congruent colleges.

Since retention is not limited to EOPS programs, I will conduct literature reviews, read national and state research related to low-income student population's educational needs, Latino student retention studies. I will collect the local demographics and review the local economic forecast as it pertains to retention. The research will be based on the factors contributing to student success as defined by retention: Academic preparation, Economic resources, Family situation, College Instructional and Student Support Services, and Course Placement and Course Selection.

An in-depth data review in the areas of: Enrollment, Retention, Persistence data, outcomes, year-to-year change in indicators (outcomes), Student progress and achievement, Fall-Fall student persistence, GPA: term and cumulative, Basic skills course completion. There will be a discussion on the limits to data on the Importance of unmeasured variables (e.g., student attitudes, academic preparation, finances, levels of program implementation), constraints on record linkage/data matching and the quality of data (*instrumentation*)

#### **Benefit to Student**

The benefit to the students for this type of research, it that best practices for early intervention will be defined, preventative measures will be identified thus enhancing Student Support Programs all leading to Student Success.

#### **Benefit to College/District**

A compilation of identified EOPS Best Practices statewide in the area of retention will be completed. This would provide a handbook of effective strategies that could be used district-wide for student success programs. I would be available to conduct a presentation on these strategies to the district-wide community. As such I would be a lead in the area of research, applicable programs and hands-on development of retention strategies.

### Benefit to Self

The benefit to me is the area of professional Development. This project would enhance my retention knowledge and skills. It would allow me the ability to present updated information to colleagues. An ultimately it would recharge my energies in serving the low-income and educationally disadvantaged student.

### Timeline

#### **January**

Develop an EOPS survey identifying and researching statewide EOPS Retention Models, and conduct the research regarding the effectiveness of these programs.

#### **February**

Conduct a college EOPS Program Survey regarding, " What attributes to Retention? Research the effectiveness of these programs and identify the methods of evaluation.

#### **March**

Conduct a compilation of the retention data and an analysis of the EOPS Retention models.

#### **April**

Conduct campus visitations of those programs with effective Retention Models; Conduct an interview of those involved in the retention program.

#### **May**

Review all of the program info, conduct an analysis and identify its application to Oxnard College; prepare the report for the district.