TOP TEN TEACHING STRATEGIES

NCCC faculty use these strategies to enhance student success and persistence in their classes*

1. Assist students beyond designated office hours
2. Learn and use names of students
3. Clarify expectations of course and instructions
4. Refer to tutoring services located in E216
5. Make students aware of academic support services, e.g., writing and math centers
6. Call roll every class
7. Refer students to the Wellness Center C122 for personal matters and to Student Development A131 for career and transfer issues
8. Discuss and enforce written attendance policy
9. Provide students with early positive feedback to increase confidence and commitment
10. Vary methods of instruction to address different learning styles

THE NEXT TEN…

11. Seek feedback from students on instruction
12. Flexible on deadlines when warranted
13. Provide opportunities for collaborative learning
14. Adhere to prerequisites for course
15. Discuss study strategies with students
16. Have students meet each other to increase comfort and group cohesiveness
17. Encourage students to exchange information, such as phone numbers, emails, etc.
18. Provide extra credit opportunities
19. Place textbook on reserve in Library for students without books
20. Phone absent students and offer assistance

*In Spring 2001, the Student Success Committee distributed a survey to all full-time and adjunct faculties. Eighty-nine faculty responded by checking items from a list of strategies which the committee created based on their reading and experience. NCCC faculty respondents were also asked to contribute additional strategies which they felt promote student success and persistence. These suggestions follow in no particular order

- Use homework as a reinforcement of presented materials not new material
- Allow students to create and bring a reference sheet (1/4 sheet of paper) to test situation
- Delay covering new material until previous material is fully understood
- Lend review and/or study success books
- Encourage peer study groups
- Discuss characteristics of successful students
- Encourage use of email
- Provide lots of opportunity for improvement, e.g., 7 – 12 papers per course
- Offer bonus questions on tests to give limited extra credit
- Provide detailed information on course/curriculum policies
- Relate teaching to students’ interests and career direction
- Bring current new/cultural information into class discussions
- Introduce students to library resources relevant to course
- Provide handouts of materials covered in class to allow students to focus more on understanding concepts than note taking
- Review before each exam
- Advise students to enroll in fewer credit hours
- Use contracts with students where they have say in the “weight” of their grade
- Have students fill out 3x5 cards with addresses and other information for future reference/action
- Make an effort to reach and involve non-majority students in the class

The Student Success Committee wishes to thank those who responded to our survey and urges all teaching faculty to try, discuss, and exchange ideas to promote student success and persistence!

“The success of an institution and the success of its students are inseparable.”
Noel/Levitz