

## *What is Project Succeed?*

Project Succeed is a campus-wide initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Its focus is to improve the 5-year graduation and retention rates and close the achievement gap for Under-Represented Minorities (URMs) across all majors at SJSU.

There are three major goals: strengthen SJSU's core academic performance in retention and graduation; provide an improved supportive environment for URM students; and enhance the delivery and integration of academic and co-curricular support services.

## *Block Scheduling*

We have block scheduled freshmen for three years. In Fall 2015, freshmen in the College of Business, College of Engineering, and the Child and Adolescent Development Department were assigned schedules that included at least two shared classes with other students in their declared majors. After two years, blocked students (80.3%) were retained at higher numbers than unblocked students (76.1%).

In Fall 2016, we added freshmen from the Department of Music. The one-year retention of Fall 2016 blocked students (90.3%) was also higher than unblocked students (85.5%).

Fall 2015 freshmen	Blocked	Unblocked
Total enrolled	1,272	2,198
% Retention (1 year)	89.3%	85.4%
% Retention (2 year)	80.3%	76.1%
Fall 2016 freshmen	Blocked	Unblocked
Total enrolled	956	2,260
% Retention (1 year)	90.3%	85.5%

For Fall 2017, we added freshmen in Health Science, Economics, Biology, Dance, Computer Science, and Undeclared-PreNursing to block scheduling. For Fall 2018, we will be expanding the majors involved.

*Contact Cindy Kato for more information*

## *Faculty/Staff Mentor Program*

The Faculty/Staff Mentor program was piloted in Fall 2016 and Spring 2017. In Fall 2017, we opened it up to all Faculty

## *Upcoming Opportunities*

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### **Faculty/Staff Mentor Program**

Project Succeed is recruiting faculty and staff to serve as mentors to undergraduates. To enroll, please go to <https://www.sjsu.edu/mentorcommunity>.

### **Do you want to request a peer educator for your class?**

Each semester, a group of faculty members are selected to work with Peer Educators. Interested Faculty should apply by 10/20/17. For more information, please go to the Peer Connections website at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu>

### **Recruiting Students to be Peer Educators**

Peer Connections is now accepting applications for Spring 2018 Peer Educators. Hiring dates:

- October 2017 : Recruitment
- November 2017 : Interviews
- Late Nov/Early Dec : Decisions

This project is supported through the Project Succeed: Title III Strengthening Institutions Project at SJSU which is funded through the U.S. Department of Education (P031A140081)

and Staff campuswide. We now have a total of 179 Faculty and Staff enrolled as mentors.

Professors James Morgan and Diana Seah will be coordinators of the Faculty/Staff Mentor Program in AY 2017-2018. We encourage faculty and staff to become mentors for incoming freshmen. Also, we are encouraging freshmen to join. To enroll, please go to <https://www.sjsu.edu/mentorcommunity>.

*Contact James Morgan & Diana Seah for more information or visit the website*

### **Peer Educators**

Peer Connections has moved towards institutionalizing peer educators throughout the university. In doing so, we now have five different roles for peer educators: Peer Mentor, Embedded Tutor, Supplemental Instruction Leader, Learning Assistant, and Classic Tutor.

In Fall 2017, Peer Connections hired 38 new peer educators and had 40 returning peer educators

Recruitment for peer educators and partnering faculty for Spring 2018 is happening now.

Interviewing will occur in November and decisions will be made in early December. Faculty who are interested in requesting a peer educator should apply by October 20th so their requests can be considered while recruiting and hiring.

*Contact Deanna Peck for more information or to request a peer educator for one of your classes*

### **First Year Experience**

The FYE Steering Committee met four times in Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 and worked on developing the FYE student learning goals. In addition, we are piloting three FYEs in Fall 2017: a three-unit FYE course (Sci 2), a one-unit FYE course (UNVS 95), and an online orientation plus FYE.

FYE Student Learning Goals:

1. Identify how learning occurs and what influences the learning process and develop learning strategies to apply that knowledge to enhance academic success;
2. Locate and utilize campus resources and facilities that enhance their well-being (e.g., academically, socially, physically, and/or emotionally);
3. Demonstrate a sense of belonging to the campus community by forming connections with peers, staff, and/or faculty;

4. Demonstrate knowledge of life-long learning skills such as information literacy, academic skills (e.g., time management), or financial literacy, and apply those learning skills to facilitate personal, academic, and professional success;
5. Clarify their values and identity and reflect on how these shape their perspectives and relationships with people who are similar to and different from themselves.

*Contact Maureen Smith for more information*

### **Student Living Learning Communities**

There are six Living Learning Communities (LLCs) located in the first year communities. The LLCs are meant to help students deepen their connection to their peers. They are:

- **Arts Village**
- **Black Scholars Community**
- **BUILD** (Business Innovation & Leadership Development)
- **CELL** (Community for Engineering Living & Learning)
- **Global Village**
- **Rainbow Village**

*Contact Kevin Kinney for more information*

### **Project Succeed Contacts:**

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