

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) at SJSU.

Block Scheduling

Since Fall 2015, we have increased the number of majors participating in block scheduling each year. After two years, Fall 2015 blocked students from the Colleges of Business and Engineering were retained in higher numbers than unblocked students from other colleges (80.3% versus 76.1%).

Also, URM students show an increase in two-year retention rates: blocked (77%) compared to non-blocked (69%). For two year retention, both men and women were retained more in blocked classes [Men: 79% vs 74%; Women 84% vs 78%].

Contact *Cindy Kato* for more information

First Year Experience

In Fall 2017, we piloted three FYEs: a three-unit FYE course (Sci 2), a one-unit FYE course (UNVS 95), and an online orientation plus FYE. Student surveys were conducted at the end of the semester and a majority of students in the FYE pilots agreed or strongly agreed that FYE successfully helped them achieve the learning outcomes.

Student responses from the pilots will be used to update and strengthen the FYE modules. We want to make sure incoming freshman understand and learn what is needed to be successful during their college experience and where to find the resources that will help them with their journey.

Contact *Maureen Smith* for more information

Faculty/Staff Mentor Program

Since piloting the Faculty/Staff Mentor program in Fall 2016, we have grown our Faculty/Staff mentor count to a total of 221 mentors campuswide.

Upcoming Opportunities

[Block Scheduling Lunch Event](#), May 31, 2018, 12-2 pm – For faculty who have participated in block scheduling. Lunch will be served.

[First Year Experience \(FYE\) Workshops](#)

“FYE in Area E” Workshop, June 5, 2018, 9-1 pm. Lunch will be served. A stipend of \$150 is available for attendees who are eligible.

“FYE in your Major” Workshop, June 7, 2018, 9-1 pm. Lunch will be served. A stipend of \$150 is available for attendees who are eligible.

[Peer Connections Events](#)

Northern California Supplemental Instruction Training, August 2-3, 2018. For more information, contact Deanna Peck at deanna.peck@sjsu.edu.

[Incorporating Peer Educators into Your Class](#), August 7, 2018, 9am-1pm, SSC 600

Lunch will be served. A stipend of \$150 is available for attendees who are eligible.

[Faculty/Staff Mentor Program](#)

[Workshop](#), August 23, 2018, 12:30-2:30 pm – “How to be a Great Mentor” Workshop. Lunch will be served.

For more information and to sign up for the workshops, please go to our website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/projectsucceed/>

With the increased mentor count, we have also increased the number of students enrolled, reaching a total of 460 students.

The program has shown great promise. Feedback from mentors and mentees alike during public sessions has been positive. We are constantly improving and expanding the program and encourage interested 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

Peer Educators

Peer Connections continues to institutionalize peer educators throughout the university. Recently, a new role has been added to the program: A Faculty-in-Residence (FIR) is the liaison between Peer Connections and faculty who have peer educators in the classroom.

The FIR will plan professional development opportunities to support faculty in using peer educators effectively.

Besides adding a faculty-in-residence position, the number of peer educators has grown from 85 in Fall 2017 to 93 in Spring 2018. This includes all five roles of peer educators: classic tutors, embedded tutors, peer mentors, supplemental instruction leaders, and learning assistants. These peer educators are working with 46 unique faculty during the Spring 2018 semester.

Peer Connections will be hiring even more peer educators for Fall 2018 as a result of over 150 requests for peer educators in the classrooms next semester.

Contact Deanna Peck for more information

Student Living Learning Communities

There are currently six Theme Communities for first year students which are located in Joe West Hall.

The Housing team has 13 Faculty-in-Residence (FIR). Their primary role is to engage with students through educational and social programming while serving as mentors and advisors. The FIRs work closely with the Residential Life team and collaborate with campus partners on events and programs.

Housing created a new Academic Initiatives area to support academic success of residential students and strengthen engagement with faculty. Darrien Rice is the Assistant Director of Academic Initiatives and Lina Anastasovitou is the Coordinator for Academic Success.

Another addition is the rebranding of the Living Learning Center to the Spartan Study Hub. The hours for the Hub have been expanded to include times on weekends and evenings to further provide a place for students to study and seek assistance in their coursework.

Contact Lina Anastasovitou for more information.

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