



April 2014

## HCC FACULTY MENTOR FIRST YEAR TRANSITION

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### HCC Mentor Mission:

*Encourage, Coach, Guide & Advise*



## Setting Standards

Barbara Goldstein, Dale Mabry Campus Mentor

As you are probably aware by now, changes in state requirements regarding developmental courses are beginning to change the make-up of our classrooms. With most of our students no longer being required to submit to placement testing and enrollment in prep courses, you may already have noticed your classes being populated by increasing numbers of students unprepared for college level work. Here you are assigning 30 pages of reading in the psychology text to students who read at an 8<sup>th</sup> grade level or algebra problems to students who aren't quite sure how fractions work. How do we meet these challenges? How do we continue to uphold high standards in our classroom without losing 75% of our students along the way? It's not an easy question, and there are no simple solutions.

As someone who has been teaching for 30 years, I have seen many changes in our student populations over time, so I will start with this: you do not need to lower your standards. Instead, meet students where they are and help them rise to meet your expectations. Yes, they come to us less prepared than they used to be, but in this technological age, there are also many places for them to get the extra help they may need to fill in the gaps. Discover the many (free!) tutorial websites in your field and direct your students to them. Encourage them to frequent our Writing Commons and tutoring centers. Don't assume skills and knowledge that to you seem obvious, and be sure that you don't disparage those who come to you unprepared. Instead, give them encouragement; give them direction; give them praise for small successes. They may surprise you!

## New Faculty Survey

Your feedback is needed!

We are gathering information about your second semester Faculty Mentor Program experience. Your feedback is part of a continuous improvement process and will facilitate the program's success.



Click the link to take the spring 2014 Faculty Mentor Program survey:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/facultymentorprogramspring2014>

## Seven Principles for Good Practice

1. Encourage Contact between Faculty and Students
2. Develop Reciprocity and Cooperation Among Students
3. Use Active Learning Techniques
4. Give Prompt Feedback
5. Emphasize Time on Task
6. Communicate High Expectations
7. Respect Diverse Talents and Ways of Learning



Click the following link to learn more about applying the seven principles:

<http://www.tltgroup.org/programs/seven.html>

## Reminders

- ✓ Faculty In-Service April 10, 2014 at the Dale Mabry Campus
- ✓ [End of Term Verification Form](#)
- ✓ Final Exam Schedule: [Spring 2014 Final Exam Schedule](#)
- ✓ Incomplete Grade Criteria: [Assigning and Adding Grades Tutorial](#)
- ✓ Post Final Grades to WebAdvisor withing 48 hours: [Assigning Final Course Grades in WebAdvisor](#)



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