

Update on...

## Transforming Course Design

...in the CSU

February, 2008

### Campus project web log highlights

**CSU San Bernardino using undergraduate student mentors as part of a redesigned course plan:** The goal of CSUSB's project is to restructure the First-Year Gateway Program, to implement cost savings and promote sustainability...The new structure includes merging several 20-person cohorts ...into one large class in spring quarter...a key element of the new approach is the use of senior students as mentors, for a small-class feel in the larger cohort...

**Cal Poly San Luis Obispo targets Statistics course:** Our initial course target is Stat 217 "Introduction to Statistical Concepts and Methods"; we identified two other areas and gained faculty support to re-use the materials in a Calculus course for Business students and in several Architecture courses...

**Faculty Learning Community at Sonoma State:** The STAM:PEDE program at Sonoma State is developing new course designs and multimedia resources in four course areas: First Year Experience Seminar, Philosophy 101, Information Literacy, and Nursing...Online units of Instruction have been developed to address threshold concepts and critical knowledge. We were also able to develop an interdisciplinary faculty learning community around *Transforming Course Design*.

**SFSU shares ideas with other CSU campuses:** Project co-Leader Eric Hsu reports that several other CSU campuses have been interacting with the SFSU team, including Joanne Becker (San Jose State), Brigitte Lahme (Sonoma State) and Bill Fisher (Chico). Two sections of the transformed SFSU Calculus course will be offered in Fall 2008, in blended sections on Tuesday and Thursday. An overview of the project is available as a video in the TCD Community Teaching Commons website.

**New campus project launched at CSU Stanislaus...** continuing project updates and web logs are available at

### Multi-campus collaborations launched for 'High Impact, Low Success' Courses

Seventeen CSU institutions are collaborating on multi-campus initiatives for *Transforming Course Design* in General Chemistry and Developmental Mathematics. Recent and upcoming milestones:

- Feb 5 – Design and Review Teams Announced
- Feb 8-15 – Team Startup (phone meetings)
- Feb 29 – First Deliverable Due (Analysis of Current Outcomes and Student Challenges)
- March 16-18 – Team Meetings and input from other states at Redesign Alliance Conference

More information is available online for these ['High Impact, Low Success' Course Projects](#).

### Outside the CSU

#### March 16-18: Redesign Alliance Conference

The Redesign Alliance Conference will bring together faculty, administrators and staff from institutions and companies who have been engaged in large-scale course redesign across the U.S. <http://www.thencat.org/RedesignAlliance/Agenda08.htm>

Our project team collaborations on 'high impact low success' courses will be participating in this conference. The CSU *Transforming Course Design* program is extending the seminal work by NCAT, with the short term goal of promoting adaptation of the new course designs, activities and resources by other CSU institutions, and the long-term goal of creating a sustainable, self-funding initiative. Our extensions include

- greater effort to document the instructional design rationales and supporting evidence for the results of our multi-campus collaborations;
- a strong collaboration across campuses, so that all 17 institutions develop confidence in the process and the resulting products (not just the products their team members develop/review):
  - develop a 'rotating fund' model in which the savings from these initial course redesign efforts create the opportunity for institutions to reinvest in ongoing redesign of other campus courses.