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*Santa Monica College's Welcome Center English Academy*

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While the instructional programs have driven many of the new Student Equity projects, the College has also developed and implemented new student support services, integrating instructional support with traditional mentoring and advising services. One such program is the Welcome Center's English Academy, which is an intensive, engaging, and fun two-week introduction to college writing, thinking, and research. The Academy targets first-year students who have placed into pre-college English with the goal to improve their English skills so that they can transition directly into college level English. Through this program, the College strives to improve student retention and persistence and reduce the time to goal completion.

The English Academy compresses up to two semesters of developmental writing instruction into a two-week period. Students attend ten 3-hour workshops, each taught by an experienced faculty member who has demonstrated commitment to student success and a positive understanding of the role culture can play in the teaching and learning environment. Participants also have the opportunity to meet regularly with a writing assistant, who is an advanced Santa Monica College student with strong writing skills and a desire to help mentor and support first-year students. Although the Academy is intense, students who successfully complete the program can bypass having to take at least one pre-college English class. Based on the results of the summer 2015 pilot, the program has demonstrated significant success as *91% of the 164 students who enrolled in the Academy passed directly into English 1*. Furthermore, the College's Office of Institutional Research has ascertained promising preliminary data about the first English Academy students' performance in fall 2015 English 1:

All Students	Success Rate	GPA	Count
Other ENGL 1	69.7%	2.76	3404
EA Students	83.0%	2.90	147
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>70.2%</b>	<b>2.77</b>	<b>3551</b>

First Time Students	Success Rate	GPA	Count
Other ENGL 1	74.4%	2.89	1431
EA Students	83.3%	2.90	144
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>75.2%</b>	<b>2.89</b>	<b>1575</b>

As a result of the success of the program, the College has committed to fully fund the English Academy for summer 2016 and increase the size of the program. The College will continue to track the success of the English Academy students to further assess the impact of this strategy on long-term success.