



Connections to College

Academic Catch-Up Program

SCTC's Connections to College was designed by the Dean of Institutional Advancement, the Dean of Students, a full-time math and English instructor, and a success coach who also teaches SCTC's first year experience course. Participating students received graphing calculators, laptops, supplies, \$100 weekly stipends, snacks, lunch, and weekly field trips.

A total of 20 students participated in one 8-week session during summer 2023. Supplemental instructors were assigned to the program and Writing Center staff also provided support. Of the 20 students who participated in the Summer 2023 program, 17 completed the program (85%), and four students subsequently enrolled in the fall, earning an average GPA of 3.2.

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Weeks 1-3	10:00-2:00	English (and lunch)	English (and lunch)	English (and lunch)	Excursions and Activities
Week 4		Break			
Week 5	10:00-2:00	College Knowledge (and lunch)	College Knowledge (and lunch)	College Knowledge (and lunch)	Excursions and Activities
Weeks 6-8	10:00-2:00	Math (and lunch)	Math (and lunch)	Math (and lunch)	Excursions and Activities

The English component of the program was developed and taught by a full-time English faculty member with support from two supplemental instructors. The math component of the program was taught by an academic specialist in math and gave students a taste of developmental math content and the three math pathways. College Knowledge sessions began with a question of the day to help the students connect their own experiences with the course content. In addition to the math, English, and College Knowledge content, the program devoted one day each week to excursions and activities, with educational content woven in.

Strategy Highlights

- The program was designed to align with the college's values and reflect the Seven Grandfather Teachings of truth, wisdom, bravery, humility, respect, love, and honesty.
- One day each week was dedicated to excursions, often tied to Native American heritage, allowing students to bond with faculty and each other while sharing culturally affirming experiences.
- SCTC continued to support the students into the fall semester, assigning them to a success coach and checking in to work on their success plans and connect them to resources as needed.

SCTC offered Connections to College in Fall 2023 for students enrolled in gateway composition with a co-requisite. The program focused on *Killers of the Flower Moon*. Students met for two evenings each week, reading the book, viewing the movie, and working on student success skills, while relating what they learned back to the Seven Grandfather Teachings. All seven of the Fall 2023 students completed the program.

"If students have that feeling of belonging, they're going to stick with it and they're going to make it through to the end."

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