



Session IV The LINKS Philosophy and an Invitation to Participate in the Regional Networks

BSI Now and in the Future

The next stage of the Basic Skills Initiative is to pilot a self-sustaining, statewide, professional community of practice – the *California Community Colleges' Success Network* (3CSN) – to promote overall increased student success. This Network will allow faculty, staff, and administrators to share and build upon existing knowledge while at the same time creating opportunities for transformation. Foundational to this network are evidence-based knowledge building, inquiry, capacity building, direct training, and resource development.

Why the BSI Success Network now?

For the past few decades, community colleges have largely been working in isolation to support students with basic skills needs. Even on individual campuses, it is frequently difficult for many to collaborate across disciplines and programs in an effort to increase student success. To help end this isolation, 3CSN 2010 is designed to bridge these gaps by establishing a self-sustaining, highly coordinated network of support. The Success Network is building a community of professional learners who can address the many shared questions and problems associated with basic skills instruction.

The first phase of the BSI Success Network included coordinators assigned to four specific locations (Bay Area, Los Angeles, Sacramento/Central Valley, and San Diego). This year the network will double in size with coordinators being assigned to four new regions.

The network coordinators facilitate efforts in the local regions while at the same time providing connections with the greater statewide network. Through both face-to-face meetings and virtual links, participating colleges become part of a community of professional inquiry that provides the following:

- The California Community Colleges' Success Network, or 3CSN, a permanent professional learning community among the 112 California community colleges and the CCC Center for Professional Learning
- The BSI Leadership Institute 1.0 and 2.0, designed to establish and advance networks on your campus and across California
- Collaborative workshops integrating earlier BSI activities with the network
- An interactive virtual network to support professional development and for information sharing



An Invitation to Join the California Community Colleges' Success Network

You are invited to be part of an exciting professional learning community dedicated to increasing student success. If you choose to participate, your college will connect with other colleges in your area and across California to build a highly coordinated, collaborative network that will expand to include all 112 community colleges over the next four years.

Colleges engaged in these transformational networks, focused around data and inquiry, receive the following benefits:

- Resources for professional learning through the 3CSN
- Sustained, ongoing support from a designated regional network coordinator
- Participation in a summer leadership institute designed to support successful implementation of your student success efforts
- Participation in a post-leadership institute project geared specifically toward the needs of your campus and basic skills program
- Campus visits from the leadership institute mentors, who will answer questions, provide support, and help with your post-institute project
- A robust and interactive virtual network to enhance professional learning and collaboration
- Participation in regional workshops where you'll get to discuss ideas, problems, solutions, and where you'll get to build camaraderie and community with colleagues from regional colleges
- Participation in not only your own regional networks but in the larger network as well—where you can gain ideas, get insights, and work together to seek answers to thorny questions
- Partnerships with statewide initiatives, such as the Faculty Inquiry Network, Center for Student Success, and Career Ladders
- Data coaches to help with assessment and evaluation of your projects and who will also help guide you in making evidence-based decisions
- A time to shine—an opportunity to showcase your college's successful programs/projects and to present your post-leadership institute project at the Tillery Institute (UC Berkeley, August 2010) and the Strengthening Student Success Conference (Anaheim, October 2010)

The Success Coordinator assigned to your region will be following up this invitation by meeting with you to set up a plan, based on your college's needs, to initialize a collaborative learning network across your campus in the coming weeks and to register your representative to the 2010 Leadership Institute.

If you are interested in learning more or are ready to join the Network now, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LINKS>