

December 9, 2003

Susana Mayorga  
Latino Services Network

## **Basic Skills Committee**

### **Group 4: Effective Practices**

#### **\*Most interesting ideas, practices or strategies:**

- Learning Communities (Alan Hancock /Cerritos) where student success classes are paired with basic skills classes.
- Puente model (LA Valley) has worked well, using basic skills courses?
- Basic Skills as its own discipline called the Academic Skills Department, under the division of Counseling. The main purpose of this department is developmental education (Contra Costa.)
- Presentation of an “Inspirational Student Panel” (Contra Costa) of former basic skills students to serve as role models or sources of motivation for new basic skills students.

#### **\*These ideas can be applied to CCSF:**

- CCSF should adopt the idea that basic skills is its own discipline which requires critical attention and equal resources. A Basic Skills department whose priority is developmental education should be created.
- CCSF should design more comprehensive learning communities for basic skills students. For instance, one semester for a full-time basic skills student may include one basic skills English, one basic skills Math, an elective(appropriate for student’s skill level) and a student success course (to introduce a new “inspirational student” panel each semester). Each basic skills student should be assigned a counselor who is specifically trained to work with this particular population of students. Following the Puente model, counselors may attend basic skills classes along with the students. Study groups should be formed

to provide students with supplemental support, encouraging students to use each other as resources, increasing their self-confidence.