



TO: Faculty, Staff and Students

FROM: Donetta Goodall, Vice President Academic Transfer and General & Developmental Education

DATE: 16 February 2008

SUBJECT: Invitation to Participate in Developmental Education Planning

The Vision Statement of ACC

“As a team, we will provide access to educational excellence and serve our students and community with passion and commitment.”

The Core Values of ACC

Communication Access Responsiveness Excellence Stewardship

It is in the spirit of the vision and values of Austin Community College that I invite you to participate in a series of focused conversations on the nature of developmental education at ACC and how we can continue to strengthen our Developmental Education program for those students who are not yet “college ready.” It is my intent to bring together those who have a stake in developmental education so we can direct our collective knowledge and energies toward improving the success of our students.

Through the dedicated work and commitment of faculty, department chairs, deans, advisors, and counselors, we continue to see significant improvement in our developmental courses and the performance of our students each year. Without a doubt, there are many pockets of excellence in the variety of courses and services we provide to help students persist and succeed to graduation, however, I also believe that our efforts can only be improved by taking a critical look at our successes and our challenges.

Some of the questions we will tackle in these discussions include:

- How do we currently define developmental education? Is this sufficient?
- How is the developmental education effort organized? Is this ideal?
- Where do developmental education efforts take place? Who are the people involved? Are the appropriate people involved? Is there appropriate collaboration and communication?
- How do we know that our efforts are successful?
- What is working? Why? What is not working? Why?

- Are we willing to do what is necessary for the success of our developmental students?
- Is developmental education a clearly stated institutional priority?
- Are you familiar with the developmental education program and the intended outcomes?
- What developmental education program evidence do you need to support what occurs in courses you teach?

I believe that this exercise can:

- Help reinforce the importance of developmental education
- Help clarify the definition and the outcomes of developmental education
- Assist in the production of a more comprehensive Developmental Education Plan
- Lead to recommendations for changes in policy related to developmental education
- Lead to recommendations for improvement in the organization and coordination of developmental education efforts

Every department within the college is affected by what happens in developmental education, therefore, all of us have a stake in the success of this program and in the students who enroll in developmental education courses. I urge you to join in the discussions and share your thoughts. This is an opportunity of a lifetime for us to determine how “best practices” can be adopted and employed for the success of our students, faculty and the college. All of us benefit.

Our first focused conversation is scheduled for Friday 29 February from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at HBC in room 201. Since this meeting comes toward the end of the workday and there are activities still going on in offices, please get supervisor approval, if appropriate, to attend. If you cannot make this first meeting, there will be others scheduled for later in the semester. I look forward to seeing you. Light refreshments will be served, so it would be great if you would let us know you plan to attend so we know how many to expect.

DG