IDC Grant Proposal

Supplemental Instruction for
MATH1010, Survey of Mathematics
at the Magnolia Avenue Campus

Submitted by
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Department Chair’s Signature: ______________________________________
Project Description:

This proposal is to implement continuance of a Supplemental instruction (SI) program in one section of MATH1010, Survey of Mathematics, for Fall 2009 and one section in Spring 2010 at the Magnolia Avenue Campus. Before SI was introduced, the MATH1010 class had poor retention and success rates at all the campuses at Pellissippi State, particularly the site campuses. A similar SI program conducted in MATH1130 during the Fall 2008, Spring 2009, and Fall 2009 semesters has been shown to improve both retention and success. So far this semester, SI has been a success for the students. We hope that the student-led supplemental instruction will continue to show improvement for the MATH1010 class at Magnolia Avenue.

Each of the participating sessions would have the same SI leader, a student who has experience as a student tutor in the Magnolia Avenue Learning Center and SI experience with other classes. The SI leader will attend each class and offer 2 to 3 one hour tutoring sessions outside of class weekly. The instructor and the SI leader would meet weekly, as well, to modify and adjust the sessions as needed. It is proposed that the SI leader be compensated for time spent training, reviewing, and preparing materials for the sessions.

The advantages for the MATH1010 students at Magnolia Avenue include:
1. Forming a relationship between the SI leader and the students in the class that will encourage confidence in the leader and encourage attendance in tutoring sessions.
2. Providing a resource person in addition to the instructor inside and outside the classroom who is able to identify and correct problems in understanding and answer particular questions that an individual may have.
3. Developing consistent language and techniques used by both the SI leader and instructor in the explanation and review of the subject matter.
4. Building a spirit of community by having the SI leader attend the class.
5. Reinforcing study skills and mathematical fundamentals that will extend beyond the MATH1010 class.

This type of program is also helpful to the SI leader by:
1. Allowing the mathematical knowledge of the SI leader to become reinforced and extended by the preparation and review needed for tutoring.
2. Encouraging a mathematically talented student to consider teaching as a career by providing a practical teaching experience, as well as a look “behind the scenes” at what is involved in classroom instruction.

As SI supervisor, my responsibilities will include:
1. Interviewing and hiring the SI leader.
2. Training the SI leader.
3. Holding weekly meetings with the SI leader.
4. Observing and evaluating at least 3 sessions held by the SI leader.
5. Evaluating the effectiveness of the project at Magnolia Avenue.
**Project Evaluation:**
I plan to measure the effectiveness of this project by:
1. Comparing retention and success rates of MATH1010 before and after implementation of the program.
2. Comparing retention and success rates of MATH1010 students who do participate in the sessions to retention and success rates of MATH 1010 students who do not participate.
3. Using other assessment techniques determined by the instructor.

This project would be implemented in the Fall 2008 and be extended in Spring 2009. The results would be presented in a workshop or as a written report.

**Budget:**
The proposed SI plan would certainly be cost efficient because the math classes at Magnolia Avenue would be involved with the same SI leader. We would also invite students from other MATH1010 classes to participate in sessions that were convenient to those students, increasing our outreach.

**Fall 2009**
1. Materials: $0
2. Duplication/ Printing: $0
3. Travel Expenses: $0
4. SI Leader stipend: number of hours per semester times hourly rate (not to exceed $1500)
5. Total Cost for Fall Semester: not to exceed $1500

**Spring 2010**
1. Materials: $0
2. Duplication/ Printing: $0
3. Travel Expenses: $0
4. SI Leader stipend: number of hours per semester times hourly rate (not to exceed $1500)
5. Total Cost for Spring Semester: not to exceed $1500

**TOTAL PROJECT COST:** not to exceed $3000