**The Partnership for Student Success at Santa Barbara City College**

In spring 2005, the president of Santa Barbara City College asked the Academic Senate to assume responsibility for planning and implementing a Student Success Initiative. The goal of this initiative was to address the needs of the large population of under-prepared students entering the college and to increase the academic success of all Santa Barbara City College students. The Academic Senate accepted this responsibility and formed a task force that included faculty representatives from all divisions as well as students, deans, and directors of successful college student support programs. After a series of meetings, the task force issued a college-wide call for proposals for the Student Success Initiative and subsequently reviewed over 60 proposals submitted by faculty, departments, and administrators before forwarding them to the Academic Senate for review. The senate’s recommendation: provide comprehensive tutoring in a variety of formats by expanding existing successful programs and making them even more effective and by creating new programs to address unmet student needs.

The college approved funding for the initiative in fall 2006, and these initiative programs became known collectively as the Partnership for Student Success (PSS). PSS consists of the following programs: Writing Center, Math Lab, Academic Achievement Zone, and Gateway to Success.

* Writing Center: provides tutors who are trained to work with students at every stage of the writing process and to assist these students in developing their writing skills.
* Math Lab: provides tutors who are trained to work with beginning through advanced math students to develop their math skills.
* Academic Achievement Zone: works closely with the Writing Center and Math Lab and provides tutoring for all student athletes who assess at below college level in reading, writing, or math or who have grade point averages at 2.3 or below.
* Gateway: provides in class and outside of class tutoring for students in designated courses, from ESL and basic skills through first-year content and career technical education courses. Gateway faculty recruit students who have been successful in specific courses and train them to become Gateway tutors in those classes.

Tutors in all PSS programs must complete a required tutor training program before they begin working with students, and each program uses faculty-developed directed learning activities that enable students to further develop necessary skills by working independently and with tutors in guided activities.

As an Academic Senate subcommittee, the Partnership Steering Committee meets regularly to assess progress, address challenges, and conduct regular evaluations of PSS programs. PSS is in its ninth year at Santa Barbara City College, and as the evaluation data for 2006–2015 indicate, it continues to demonstrate strong success rates, especially among basic skills students (see http://sbcc.edu/pss). Because of this success, PSS received the 2007 Chancellor’s Award for Best Practices in Student Equity, the 2008 Hewlett Award for being a Leader in Student Success and the 2010 Exemplary Program Award from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges and California Community Colleges Board of Governors.