

CDHE Colorado Completes Tour

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CO L O R A D O
**Department of
Higher Education**

Submit an event for the Colorado Completes Tour!

Please complete this form to propose an event for the Colorado Completes campaign. Your event should showcase innovative completion practices with proven results for ensuring students are graduating on time. All public and private COF-funded institutions are welcome to submit.

Name of Institution MSU Denver

Name of Program/Practice SAI Program

Department Student Success

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Practice Innovation *

What is the innovative practice your institution engages in, in order to improve graduation rates/timely completion? Max. 500 words

In 2013, MSU Denver became the first higher education institution in Colorado to apply and be authorized to implement Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI). MSU Denver historically has a 45% remedial rate for first time to college freshman, and these students would have to dual enroll at a community college for their first semester in remedial courses that provided no college credit. However, up to 75% of these students were placing in the highest remedial sections. Research has demonstrated that students who are just below college level cut-offs would be better served in credit bearing gateway courses with additional academic support as opposed to the traditional, stand-alone remedial sequence. Therefore, MSU Denver took the lead and piloted SAI in both Math and English courses to determine if completion rates could be improved in gateway courses using the SAI method. Results have been encouraging, as MSU Denver SAI students are outperforming the general student population in the English 1010 gateway course and are outperforming students in the various math gateway courses (with the exception of College Algebra).

Due to MSU Denver's leadership in implementing SAI, we received letter's support from Senator's Bennett and Udall, Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, and the leaders from Complete College America in writing a 3.75 million dollar First in the World Grant this past summer in an effort to scale up SAI (notification of the grant will be in September). According to Complete College America, "MSU Denver is on track to become a national model in this arena and CCA stands ready to be their partner, assisting with disseminating these best practices across the country.

English

With approval from the state, MSU Denver's English department started the Stretch program in Fall 2012, started the SAI program in 2013 and have extended the cut score for more students to participate for Fall 2014. Students who do not place directly into English 1010 take a secondary placement (an actual essay) and are given a path: ENG 1008/1009 (stretch), ENG 1010 + Writing Lab or ENG 1010. They closely monitor the students with five-week grade checks to see where they need additional support.

Math

Math peer study has existed at MSU Denver since 1993, which primarily consisted of providing additional support in college algebra section for students who score just above college level cut scores. However, due to the SAI program at MSU Denver, peer study (renamed to non-credit SAI) has been able to serve students just below college level cut-offs in non-STEM gateway Math courses by providing secondary assessments and placement directly into gateway courses with additional academic support.

Proposed Event *

What event are you proposing to host that will highlight this practice? Max. 500 words

MSU Denver proposes to hold a mini symposium in the fall for press, commissioners, and students/faculty that address the national and statewide issue of remediation, and will provide the specific example of SAI to address a solution that is making a positive difference at a 4 year institution with traditionally high remedial rates. We would seek out Dr. Bruce Vandal, Vice President of Complete College America, Lt. Gov Joe Garcia, President Jordan, and select students who have participated in SAI to offer their perspectives on remediation and what SAI can do to help close the achievement gap. Participants will then be invited to tour classrooms and hear from the English and Math departments about how they are specifically implementing SAI.

In the future, MSU Denver proposes to host a state-wide SAI forum that will provide intensive training and work-sessions for other colleges and leaders in the state of Colorado who wish to offer and implement SAI at their institutions.

Promotion *

How will you promote the event on campus and off-campus? Max. 250 words

We will promote the event by utilizing our Communications department and their contacts with press and media, we will involve leaders from the Math and English departments, and we will work with CDHE to collaboratively promote the based on their criteria.

Data

Please provide research on which the program is based and data that provides the program's effectiveness in producing desired outcomes.

Student Demographics *

Does the program include a component to serve populations who have traditionally had lower completion rates? Max. 500 words

Nationally, students of color and first generation students tend to be overrepresented in remedial courses. This also holds true at MSU Denver. While MSU Denver serves 33% students of color, of the students enrolled in English SAI or Stretch, over 50% were students of color. However, these students are still outperforming the general student population (pass rate around 84% for English SAI/Stretch) compared to average pass rate of 75% of general English). In our Math 1080 with non-credit SAI, 40% of students identify as first generation, and students in these sections passed at a rate of 86%. In the next several years, MSU Denver plans to continue scaling up SAI in an effort to serve all students, provide more intensive training for faculty, and provide even more intrusive advising and early intervention strategies. MSU Denver firmly believes that a well-executed and full scaled SAI program will produce a significant increase in retention and graduation rates.

