



College and Career Transitions Initiative

LESSONS LEARNED

Site Partnership: **Northern Virginia Community College**

Updated: 04/12/07

As the CCTI project moves forward, it is important to document lessons learned so that those following will be better equipped to develop successful Career Pathways. This "Lessons Learned" section should focus on the knowledge you have gained by this experience and what new strategies could be taken into the future. These lessons should reflect on:

- what was done right
- what could have been done differently
- how the processes and interactions could be improved

... to be more effective in the future.

LESSONS LEARNED		KNOWLEDGE GAINED NEW STRATEGIES FOR FUTURE
1	Students would persist in CCTI if all prerequisites were completed prior to graduation.	We are currently working with the school systems to increase the opportunities for dual credit. This would allow students to complete their prerequisites prior to graduating high school.
2	We had hospitals participate in our Parents Open House. Many of the hospital employees who were now heading departments began their education at NVCC or another community college.	Our hospital partners spoke directly to the parents letting them know that they would readily hire students from the community college. They shared starting salaries as well as advancement opportunities. Hearing from future employers impacted the parents.
3	Each year we conduct a fall and spring Health Career Awareness Expo. The average annual attendance is 1000 students were one of the presentations was the CCTI.	This year we held mini expos inviting smaller groups allowing for a more personal contact with students. Students felt that we should continue the fall and spring expos but follow them with mini expos. They felt the fall and spring expo got them thinking about a career path. They felt the mini expo gave them an opportunity for a longer Q&A session about CCTI.

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4	We created an Adult Career Pathways to date 88 students are enrolled in four certificate courses, Dental Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, Medical Terminology /Billing & Coding and Medical Clinical Assistant. We have seen great student success in our Medical Terminology/ billing & coding program (76% pass rate).	Our Adult Career Pathways consist of students who have not been in the classroom in sometime and could benefit from a Student Success Workshop. We will offer a non-mandatory workshop on study skills, note taking, and critical thinking. We are also offer a math refresher workshop for pharmacy technician students.
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