

Faculty Inquiry Group Proposal Form

Please complete the form below to apply for FIG funding. *(Please limit the proposal to two pages or less.)*

Facilitator Information:

Name: Christine Grutta

Department: ABSE

Daytime Phone: 541-463-5511

Email: gruttac@lanecc.edu

Member Information:

(4 minimum, 10 maximum, including facilitator) – *While the committee strongly recommends groups of 10 or less, proposals for larger groups will be considered.*

Please list names, departments and email addresses of participants.

Patti Jackson, ABSE, Jacksonp@lanecc.edu

Julie Pfaff, ABSE, pfaffj@lanecc.edu

Alice Warner, ABSE, warnera@lanecc.edu

Aliscia Niles, ABSE, nilesa@lanecc.edu

Christine Grutta, ABSE, gruttac@lanecc.edu

Briefly explain the topic, issue, question, concern, project, and/or problem that the group will address.

We seek to investigate the issue of student persistence and retention in the adult education classroom. Current national statistics demonstrate that most students entering adult education programs leave within the first three weeks of the term. This issue is a significant challenge within the ABSE department and we would like to explore strategies to retain students, improve student learning and self-efficacy, and provide a more effective, seamless transition to credit classes. Since this topic is broad and complex in scope, we will narrow our investigation to concentrate on the New Student Orientation as a tool to building student persistence and retention.

Provide a tentative outline of planned activities, meetings and/or topics.

1. FIG members will conduct research on best practices for retention in adult basic education programs. Specific focus will be on orientation models and practices.
2. The committee will contact and connect with various departments on campus who are also dealing with the issue of retention. Specifically, we would like to see other models of orientation processes. Departments we will visit are: TRIO, Women in Transition, the Multi-Cultural Center and the SAGA committee.

3. We will create a new design for the ABSE (Main Campus) New Student Orientation. We will develop modules/workshops around student persistence, empowerment and accountability (potential topics include goal setting, personal responsibility, time management, etc.) that will become a part of the Orientation. The committee will also identify how the work of the classified staff (testing/registration forms/scheduling) will co-occur with the faculty's curricular components of the Orientation.
4. Finally, we will discuss methods to track data for analysis of the Orientation's effectiveness and its impact on our retention rate.

We estimate spending 1-2 meetings per topic for a total of approximately 5-8 meetings.

What do you see as potential outcomes of this FIG?

This FIG will bring greater understanding and insight into the complex and pressing issue of student retention in the ABSE classroom. From this deeper understanding, we will build an Orientation model that will be adopted and delivered by the Main Campus ABSE Department Fall 2014. We will be able to gather data and analyze the effectiveness of our Orientation model for further review and study.

Provide a brief overview of proposed budget.

Kick-off dinner = Approximately \$130

Materials (books/journals) = Approximately \$100 - \$125

In addition, we are requesting the \$300 honoraria awarded to each FIG participant.

Electronic Signature:

Christine Grutta

By typing my name here, I confirm that I have read and understood the program guidelines.