

# Effective College Projects



# Effective College Projects

Beta Alpha Xi Chapter

Estrella Mountain Community College

Avondale, Arizona



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HONOR SOCIETY

# 5-Star Chapter Development

## Program Mission

- Develop a strong chapter
- Organize projects and initiatives
- Encourage excellence
- Recognize progress in the attainment of goals set by the chapter
- Earn local, regional, and international recognition



# What is a College Project?

## Three Star Level, Activity Four

*Check all activities that you have completed.*

- Chapter implemented a College Project, which is determined by the chapter and college president or administrator.



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# Why Do A College Project?

- Build a working relationship with senior college administrators
- Establish reputation for Phi Theta Kappa as source of academic excellence and active contributor to campus/community life



# Why Do A College Project?

- Allow chapter to engage in opportunities for leadership, service, and scholarship that might not otherwise be available.
- Leave a lasting legacy for future members as they strive to maintain the level of excellence set by their predecessors.



# The Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Concept

## Honors in Action

- Identify a Community Need
  - Minority Males Underrepresented in Higher Education
  - Minority Males Retention/Graduation Rates Low
  - Minority Males Lag on Achievement Indicators
- Research Potential Solutions
- Adopt Leadership Roles
- Work to Improve the Community



# Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Mission

- Increase success rate among at-risk students
- Draw on strength of students helping other students
- Help incoming/returning students reach their fullest potential.
- Create a greater sense of community on campus



# Learning Research Tells Us

- Students are more likely to relate to other students.
- Students can learn effectively from more experienced students.
- Students who surround themselves with successful individuals are more likely to create their own opportunities for success



# Promoting The Concept

## Campus Groups

- Maricopa Council on Black American Affairs
- Senior Administrators
  - Vice President of Academic Affairs
  - Vice President of Student Services
  - Dean of Students
- Faculty Senate



# Modifying The Concept

## Chronology of Change

- **Spring 2008:** Phi Theta Kappa takes lead role in design and implementation
- **Summer 2008:** Maricopa District mandate to develop retention initiatives on all ten campuses
- **Fall 2008:** *I Start Smart* Program becomes EMCC's initial retention effort
  - Peer-to-Peer Mentoring elements incorporated



# Implementing The Concept

## Fall 2008 / *Start Smart* Pilot Program

- Initial student mentors hired and trained.
- Fourteen students enrolled in two classes.
- All 14 students completed program classes.
- 80% of *Start Smart* students returned for Spring 2009 semester.



# Pilot Program Content

## CPD 150: Strategies for College Success

- Life skills development
- Self-management strategies
- Regular follow-up with student mentors
- Academic, financial, and counseling resources available on campus
- Closer connections with faculty and staff



# Expanding The Concept

## Spring 2009 / *Start Smart* Program

- Four student mentors added for total of six.
- 30 students enrolled in four classes.
- Saturday and late-start classes added.
- Most mentors from Phi Theta Kappa,



# A Win-Win Scenario

## Program Benefits

- Student participants more likely to maintain consecutive semester enrollment.
- Mentors and students alike hone skills in communication, problem-solving, and leadership.
- College enhances reputation as environment which cares about success of all students.



# ***Our Presenters Today:***

***Beta Alpha Xi Chapter***

***Estrella Mountain Community College***

***Christopher Esteen, Vice-President of Leadership / Mentor***

***Annette Wilson, Chapter President / Mentor***

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**Questions and Comments:**

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