

# RX for ER:

Prescriptions for Effective Retention

## PARTICIPANT PACKET

April 7, 2005

3:05 - 3:30 PM CT



## Prescriptions for Effective Retention

<http://www.pappstc.nhmccd.edu/net/rx/>

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Community and Technical Colleges Division  
State Leadership Consortium for Professional Development, Discretionary Grant  
Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Grant of 1998  
FEDERAL PROGRAM YEAR 2004-2005

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## Member Colleges

-  •Laredo Community College
-  •Northwest Vista College
-  •Tomball College
-  •Texas State Technical College  
- West Texas

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## Laredo Community College

**Enrique Garcia,**  
Professor, Computer Information Systems  
/ Director of the Employees Technology  
Advancement Center (ETAC)

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**Northwest Vista College**  
Alamo Community College District

**Barbara Griest-Devora**

Academic Leader for Academic  
Foundations

**Natalia Treviño,**

Assistant Professor, English Coordinator

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**Texas State Technical  
College - West Texas**

**Jeff Howard**

Associate Vice President  
of Student Development

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**Tomball College**  
North Harris Montgomery Community  
College District

**Margaret (Peg) Crider, Ph.D.**

Professor, Mathematics

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## Advisory Board

**Robert Starke**, El Paso CC  
**Bonnie Longnion**, Ph.D.,NHMCCD  
**Gheeta Bhagat**, Ed.D., Retention Specialist  
**Estelle Sit**, Alamo CCD

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## Project Goals

- Survey exemplary practices in retention
- Collect resources on topics in retention
- Create a website to target best practices in retention

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## Project Goals (cont)

- Develop modules & create “toolkits” for replication
- Disseminate information
- Identify New Ventures

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## Laredo Community College

Modules: Technology-based Strategies

1. Technology in the Classroom (blended learning)
2. Distance Learning

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## Blended Learning

Providing an e-learning component in a traditional face-to-face classroom

- Delivering instruction
- Communicating
- Managing the course

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## "The beauty is in the blend!"

- Getting the correct blend of different learning components
- Providing effective professional development for faculty
- Implementing a technology center for faculty support

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## Delivery Tools

- Course Management Systems
- Presentation tools
- Communication tools
- Assessment tools

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## Northwest Vista College

### Modules: Alternative Course Structures

1. Using Cooperative Learning to enhance retention
2. Implementing Learning Communities across disciplines to enhance retention

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## Cooperative Learning

- Overview of the five basic elements
- Exploration via interactive journals
- Using research on the web
- Evaluating your own classroom

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## Cooperative Learning

- Positive classroom climate
- Group processing
- Diversity & retention

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## Northwest Vista Program

- Institutional Support
- Faculty Cooperation
- Student Surveys

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## Learning Communities

- Linked courses
- Team-taught courses
- Structured cohorts

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## Success and Retention

- Promotes collaborative learning and a sense of community
- Faculty development
- Multifaceted, multidisciplinary nature of knowledge

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## LC Module

- Survey of literature for best practices
- Recruiting faculty and students
- Structuring Learning Communities

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## LC Module

- Sample syllabi, class pairings, advertising
- Programs that work
- Suggestions for further research

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## TSTC - West Texas

### Modules: Intervention Strategies

1. Orientation Programs
2. Early Alert programs

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## Orientation Programs

### Purpose:

- To share vision & expectations
- To expose students to college community environment
- To discuss services available to students

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## Family/Parent Orientation

- Engage family members in student success
- To answer questions

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## Student Orientation

- Introduce key personnel to students.
- Administer the Noel Levitz College Student Inventory (RMS)

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## Early Alert Program

- Early identification of at-risk students
- Referrals for extra assistance
- Feedback to faculty of students needs

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## Early Alert Triggers

- Failure to turn in an assignment
- Failed or missed exam
- Lack of class participation
- Poor academic performance
- Poor adjustment to college
- MIA – missing in action

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## Success Measures

- Intrusive, high touch program
- Referral program
- It takes *all of us* to graduate a student

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## Tomball College

Modules: Support Systems

1. Tutoring Programs
2. New Ventures

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## Tutoring Strategies

Purpose:

- Retain students
- Enable students to improve their grades
- Empower students to manage their own learning

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## Tutoring Models

- One-to-one
- Groups
- Online
- Peer tutoring
- Cross-age tutoring
- Supplemental Instruction
- Drop-in tutoring

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## Tutor Coach Features

- Collaboration
- CRLA certified Tutor Coaches
- Weekly meetings - minimum of 8 weeks
- Voluntary attendance
- Holistic model

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## Tutor Coach Toolkit

- Strategic planning tool
- Program documents
- Templates
- Tutor-coach handbook

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## Tutor Coach Successes

- (SACS) Commended program
- Finalist in THECB STAR program
- Proven impact on retention and success

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## New Ventures

Purpose:

- Identify other challenges in retention
- Explore solutions

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## More information

Rx for ER, Prescriptions for Effective Retention

<http://www.wappstc.nhmccd.edu/net/rx/>

Texas Collaborative for Professional Development

<http://www.texascollaborative.org>

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