

**Missouri Southern State University**  
**Foundations of Excellence<sup>®</sup> in the First College Year**  
**2006-07 Action Projects**

**Action Project 2**

**Assignment**

**High-Enrollment Courses with Low Success Rates**

Develop and implement a plan, which includes the use of supplemental instruction, to improve student success in high-enrollment courses that have a history of low success rates as measured by the percentage of the students that complete the class with a grade of C or above. Since research shows that success in developmental mathematics is highly correlated with overall first-year student success, it is recommended that the process start with those courses. The resulting model could then be applied to other courses.

**Team**

Name	Area
Eillen Godsey, Co-Chair	Learning Center
Juan Vazquez, Co-Chair	Arts and Sciences
Laura Adkins	Arts and Sciences
Neal Blades	Business Administration
Susan Craig	Project STAY
Christine Eller	Technology
Michael Garoutte	Arts and Sciences
James Gray	Business Administration
Gwen Murdock	Education

**Status of the Project**

- ❖ The Team presented its **report and recommendations** to the Steering Committee on April 10, 2007.
- ❖ The Team proposed that MSSU provide additional support in beginning math classes (Math 20 and Math 30), including in-class tutoring using at least two student tutors per class period and a new mathematics laboratory equipped with computers and appropriate software.
  - The lab, which has been established, will be staffed by mathematics faculty members. Tutoring and help with homework will be made available to Math 020 and Math 030 students from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm.
- ❖ To provide 24/7 help with homework, Eduspace Learning Software should be supplied to all students in Math 20 and Math 30.
- ❖ Additional recommendations consisted of the following:
  - Continue offering the Math 025-Math 030 sequence as an option for students with Math ACT higher than 16 so students can finish the remedial courses in just one semester.
  - Revise the topics taught in Math 020 and Math 030.
  - Offer Math 030 on a MWF schedule only.
- ❖ To make the course more applicable to students' everyday lives, the Team also recommended that the **syllabus for Econ 180** be revised, which has been done, to include personal finance modules that link economics and free market topics to the implications of individual decisions and long-term individual finance issues such money management, credit management, resource management, and financial security.
- ❖ All of the Team's recommendations have been implemented, except that the Mathematics Department selected MyMathLab Software instead of Eduspace Learning Software.