STARS

STUDENTS TAKING ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES
The STARS Program

A collaboration between the Academic and Student Affairs areas to provide several at-risk intervention modules in each of the upper-level developmental reading courses offered.
Background

• Began with grant funding to provide counseling and advising interventions in select classrooms starting in 2006.

• Grew to a program in fall, 2008 involving 5 counseling staff and nearly 20 Reading 099 classes for a total of 400 students involved.

• This semester, 14 Reading 099 classes are receiving STARS support.
STARS to STARS

from
Students Tackling Academic Risks

to
Students Taking Academic Responsibilities
Why STARS?

• Some ideas:
  – Classroom Infusion of FYE101 content
  – Punctuated delivery of key messages
  – Direct access to counseling support
  – Supplemental Instruction
  – Teacher-Counselor Partnership
Who are our STARS?

• Students identified with developmental Reading needs via Compass assessment
  – Disclosed and undisclosed learning disabilities
  – Reluctant readers
  – Non-ESL students
  – Higher-functioning developmental students
STARS contacts are made...

• ...in the classroom encouraging students to contact counselors and advisors

• ...through emails and telephone contacts

• ...in supplemental opportunities

• ...in counseling office as appointments and walk-ins
Classroom visits

• 3-5 visits to classes highlighting
  – Harper Services
  – Protecting GPA
  – Priority Registration
  – Selecting the right classes
  – Pitfalls & Obstacles
  – Strengths – Focusing on Potential
StrengthsQuest

• ...is the Gallup Organization’s strengths development program for college-age students.
The Concept of Strengths

- Becoming aware of your talents builds confidence and provides a basis for achievement.
- Learning how to develop and apply strengths will improve your levels of achievement.
- As you develop and apply strengths, your achievement will increase and you will experience greater and more frequent successes.
Knowledge
• A lot of running
• Competing to win
• Big time commitment

Skills
• Basics of dribbling
• Basics of rebounding
• Basics of shooting

Strength
Consistently hits the three-point shots that win the basketball game

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Supplemental Instruction

• Conducted by Harper faculty to enhance learning and included
  – Making Good Choices
  – Learning Style
  – Avoiding Procrastination
  – Time Management
  – Stress Management
  – and more
Incentives

- Rewards for student participation
  - In-class
    * STARS Backpacks, stress-STARS, candy
  - Supplemental activities
    * Bonus points
    * Bookstore credits
What We Have Learned

• Student response is positive!
• We are building a stronger Harper community.
• We need to expand the class to include additional developmental classes.
• Repetition matters.
• Integration happens when it becomes relevant.
Research needed

• Pre and post comparisons of
  – average GPA,
  – passing rates,
  – retention,
  – summer enrollments and
  – early registrations
  – ...

STARS

- Questions?
- Reactions?