

College Connections at Jamestown Community College

➔ Jamestown Community College offered its first concurrent enrollment course in 1993, and the CE program was formalized in 1998 with 22 partner high schools. For the first several years, the program focused solely on:

- ❖ Core academic offerings
- ❖ Courses with existing AP curricula

➔ Several years into the program, more career-track courses were added including criminal justice, welding, mechanical technology, and business. Course sections in these disciplines remained limited. Although the program expanded to include career-track courses, the focus remained the same. College Connections served students who were, for the most part:

- ❖ College bound
- ❖ AP-track
- ❖ Self motivated
- ❖ Top 20%

➔ College Connections remained a program that provided **early college access** to the “**best and brightest**.” As such, College Connections provided added benefits to those students who were, arguably, already among the best-served.

Challenge #1

In 2007, JCC’s GEAR-UP Coordinator proposed the introduction of a non-AP track College Connections math course: MAT 1500 Problem Solving with Math.

Goal

Provide college access to students in two low-income districts (50% minimum free or reduced lunch).

Program Alignment

College Connections aligned, to some extent, with six of eight GEAR-UP objectives.

GEAR-UP	College Connections
Help ensure that all students have equal access to rigorous courses that prepare them for college.	Provide students with access to actual college courses.
Promote equal access to educational excellence through concerted partnership efforts on behalf of low-income students.	Maintain partnerships with several high schools identified as “in crisis,” “underperforming,” and “low-income.”
Develop a solid academic foundation for college in the schools through challenging courses, well-prepared teachers, and modern learning tools.	Meet NACEP standards ensuring quality in curriculum and faculty. Training in modern learning tools is made available on a regular basis.
Provide ongoing staff training and professional development opportunities to help teachers raise expectations for all students.	Facilitate two mandatory professional development sessions each year that are heavy in discipline content.
Establish strong partnerships that involve a long-term commitment and a meaningful role for each partner in improving students’ preparation for college.	Work with partner high schools to prepare students for ACCUPLACER placement test.
Promote reforms and improvements in the school curriculum as well as in teaching and learning methods.	Provide curricular and classroom management support for program teachers.

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Outcome

College Connections Students by Race and Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	MAT 1500		Total Program	
	Students	%	Students	%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0.0%	17	1.0%
Asian	1	4.8%	9	0.5%
Black (Non Hispanic)	4	19.0%	18	1.1%
Hispanic (Any Race)	1	4.8%	57	3.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Two or More Races	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
White (Non Hispanic)	15	71.4%	1564	93.5%
Ethnicity/Race Unknown	0	0.0%	6	0.4%
Total	21	100.0%	1673	100.0%

Follow-Up

Although three sections of the MAT 1500 were offered, the ACCUPLACER reading requirement proved a challenge for many potential students. JCC and the partner high schools are considering placement test prep options.

Challenge #2

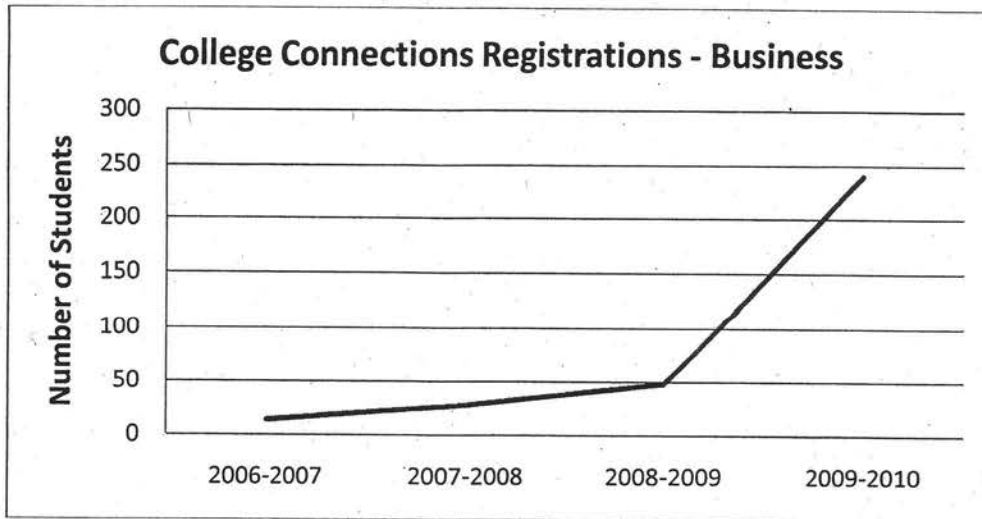
Provide additional career-track opportunities for students who do not meet current course offering prerequisites including minimum ACCUPLACER scores.

Goal Expand business course offerings and increase enrollment in College Connections business courses by 100% within three years.

Outcome JCC's Assistant Dean of Business and Social Sciences agreed to add five business courses, four of which carry no prerequisites.

	College Connections Enrollments & FTEs - Business					
	Fall 2008		Spring 2009		Total 2008-2009	
	Enrolled	Student FTE	Enrolled	Student FTE	Enrolled	Student FTE
BUS	32	3.67	16	2.03	48	5.70
Total CE	1823	186.90	1351	138.67	3174	325.57

	College Connections Enrollments & FTEs - Business					
	Fall 2009		Spring 2010		Total 2009-2010	
	Enrolled	Student FTE	Enrolled	Student FTE	Enrolled	Student FTE
BUS	131	13.63	109	11.47	240	25.10
Total CE	2053	213.43	1543	158.93	3596	372.37



Challenge #3

Offer JCC's Office Technology Certificate in two partner high schools beginning in 2011-2012.

Goal

Provide greater postsecondary access to underserved students by offering a certificate program that will:

- Prepare them for work
- Encourage degree completion
- Enhance current high school curriculum

Obstacles

While College Connections has received the support of the business faculty and Assistant Dean, resistance remains among other faculty groups. In order for College Connections to continue to broaden its scope, a fundamental perception shift must occur. Instead of simply providing **early college access**, College Connections can successfully provide **greater college access** if stakeholders agree to:

- ➔ Focus on increasing college attainment of those who are not tagged as college bound.
- ➔ Provide supports – both academic and personal – for students working below grade level.
- ➔ Work to eliminate boredom and disengagement – not just among advanced students, but among struggling students.
- ➔ Consider gatekeepers that reach beyond SAT, ACT, GPA, and college placement tests such as ACCUPLACER or COMPASS.
- ➔ Consider CE a mechanism for aligning high school and postsecondary education.
- ➔ Encourage collective responsibility for moving students successfully from one level of education to the next.
- ➔ Accept that challenge is a greater motivator than remediation.