

## **The Action Project Declaration**

**Institution:** Lincoln Land Community College

**Planned project kickoff date:** June 2013

**Target project completion date:** September 2014

**A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer**

Using Multiple Measures for Placement in Remedial Math Coursework

**B. Describe this Action Project's goal**

This project will examine the College's process for initial academic placement of students into mathematics courses. The current process uses test scores from ACT, SAT and/or Accuplacer administrations. This team will research whether student placements are more reliable with additional measures. If the findings suggest that mathematics placement can be improved with additional measures, the team will design and recommend a new placement process to be used at LLCC.

**C. Identify the single AQIP Category that this Action Project will most affect or impact**

Category 1 – Helping Students Learn

Category 3 – Understanding Students' and Other Stakeholders' Needs

**D. Describe briefly your institution's motivation for taking on this Action Project now — why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities**

The Common Core, Complete College America, and other initiatives (i.e., Illinois Board of Higher Education's Public Agenda for College and Career Success College) are focusing a great deal of attention on college readiness and completion. Appropriate placement is one factor that helps gauge college readiness and may impact a student's persistence to completion of a degree/certificate, and recent research has indicated that the likelihood of placement errors is more common when an institution uses a single test score for such decisions.

**E. List the organizational areas — institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units — most affected by or involved in this Action Project**

Faculty in Mathematics and Sciences; staff in Enrollment Services

**F. Identify the key organizational processes or activities that you expect this Action Project to change or improve.**

Enrollment of new students, specifically placement testing, advising, and admissions

**G. Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project**

Two semesters (Summer and Fall 2013) are needed for researching. Two additional semesters (Fall and Summer 2014) are allotted for designing, recommending, and preparing to implement the new placement process. Time is also needed in the second phase for (a) approval by the Academic Standards team and (b) modifying processes in Enrollment Services. For changes to

take effect with the Spring 2015 registration cycle, changes to Enrollment Services processes would need to be finalized by September 2014.

**H. Describe how you plan to monitor efforts on this Action Project**

The team will hold open forums during two key points in the project – after the research phase and after designing a new placement process.

**I. Describe the overall “outcome” measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals**

Measures to determine the success for the new process will be explored and determined by the action project team. Such measures could include the following: students meeting the learning outcomes, indicators of student success (grades, course progression), student retention (course retention rates), incident rate of departmental directives for improper placement (a change in student’s beginning placement), and faculty perception of students’ preparedness at initial placement.

**J. Other information**

Project Sponsor – Lesley Frederick, VP of Student Services

**K. Project Leader and contact person**

Bill Bade, Dean of Mathematics and Sciences

Tricia Kujawa, Director of Placement and Testing