



# A Matter of Preparation

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Getting students ready for placement in  
Developmental Math Courses



## Basic Skills Summit

Effective Practices -  
Bridges to Implementation



# Factors in Making Placement Decisions (In order of Priority)

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- Placement Test Scores
- Other available test information
  - ACT/SAT
  - in-class tests
- High School background data:
  - School courses completed
  - GPA
  - High school rank
- Age and level of maturity

# The Placement Process at



- In the past...
  - Students would often come to campus for the first time and be placed in front of a computer for placement testing.
  - Advisors and testing staff had a booklet with solved problems they could distribute for those who wanted a review.





# The Placement Process at



- Here's an idea...Let's ask our faculty to do the same!!!



# What Happened?



# The Solution

- A preassessment math workshop
  - Based on a presentation at NADE and discussions with ACC math faculty.



# Preassessment Math Workshop

- What we wanted to create
  - 2 hours of work may save students a semester (or two) of time and money
  - Topics are Prealgebra and Elementary Algebra
  - Topics are covered quickly...not meant to teach...meant to refresh
  - Not meant for people who were not happy with the first score.
  - Designed to refresh skills and decrease anxiety
  - AND



# Results

- Advisors and testing center staff started promoting the workshop.
  - They started asking for more!



# Results

- 20 students attended prior to Summer 2005 semester.
- 97 prior to fall 2005.
- 600 people overall.





# Results

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- Are we setting up students for failure?
  - Of those who had already taken the Accuplacer once before, 56% tested into a higher course.
  - The increase was “roughly” 1 course improvement.
  - Most dramatic improvement was Mat 060 to Mat 120 (student got an A).
  - 90% of these students passed their next math course.



# Results


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- Now, it is rare that a student takes the Accuplacer before coming to the Workshop.
  - That's exactly what we want!!!
  - But it makes it difficult to identify students who actually moved up.



# To meet the demand

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-  produced an online version of the workshop.

<http://www.ccaurora.edu/students/academic/mathpreassmtvid.shtml>

# The Next Step – A Change in Philosophy

- A more intense workshop
- Students can learn new material
  - Not just have old material refreshed
- Based on a program for the Wagner Equipment Apprentice Program



# The Program

- 2 weeks during July 2007.
- Topics from the workshop were expanded upon
- Students had study time to work on areas of weakness
- A tutor/teacher was always available



# Results

- 10 students were required to participate
- All 10 students scored into Career Math (Mat 107 / prereq is Mat 060)
- Average of 2 course improvement





# Results

- Are we setting up people for failure?

<b>Mat 107 grades</b>	<b>Quiz %</b>	<b>Final Exam %</b>	<b>Class %</b>
<b>Fall 2007</b> Students who attended the program	85.8%	70.2%	81.0%
<b>Fall 2007</b> Students who had already met the prerequisite	93.2%	88.1%	91.8%
<b>Fall 2006</b> All students met the prerequisite	90.4%	73.8%	85.1%



# The Idea

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- Let's do the same thing for any CCA student who is interested.
- We will have a pilot this summer based on the Wagner Apprentice Program





# Thank You!

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