

# Project Succeed

## What is Project Succeed?

Project Succeed is a campus wide initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Its focus is to improve the 5 year graduation and retention rates and close the achievement gap for Under-represented Minorities (URMs) across all majors at San José State University.

### Goals

1. To strengthen SJSU's core academic performance in retention and graduation
2. Provide an improved supportive environment for URM students
3. Enhance the delivery and integration of academic and co-curricular support services

## Announcements

Project Succeed is looking for students, faculty and staff to help develop the First Year Experience pilot programs. If you are interested, sign up at the Google link below.

### 1. FYE Steering Committee

### 2. FYE Task Forces

- 3 Unit FYE Course
- Housing FYE Pilot Program
- Online/Hybrid Orientation Plus
- 1 Unit FYE Course

If interested sign-up at <https://goo.gl/forms/WBoDUcf2vZbucRgS2>  
Or contact Gale Holdren

Project Succeed is looking for a department or departments to be participants in any one of the four FYE Pilot programs. Please contact Pat Backer for more information.

## Faculty/ Staff Mentor Program

In Fall 2016, our pilot semester 2.0, we focused on collaboration, coordination and integration with other Project Succeed projects. We recruited mentees from the Block Scheduled Courses: Mexican American Studies 10A and Communication Studies 20. We also met with the Theme Community Residence Hall Advisors. This presentation yielded an invitation to conduct an orientation with 60 student residents at the beginning of the spring semester.

An exciting development is our new office space in Peer Connections. Our mentor intern, Janelly Ruiz, is attending Peer Mentor Staff meetings, holding office hours and available to coach students on developing their profiles and selecting a mentor.

Contact Maria Luisa Alaniz for more information or visit the website at [mentorcommunitysjsu.xinspire.com](http://mentorcommunitysjsu.xinspire.com)

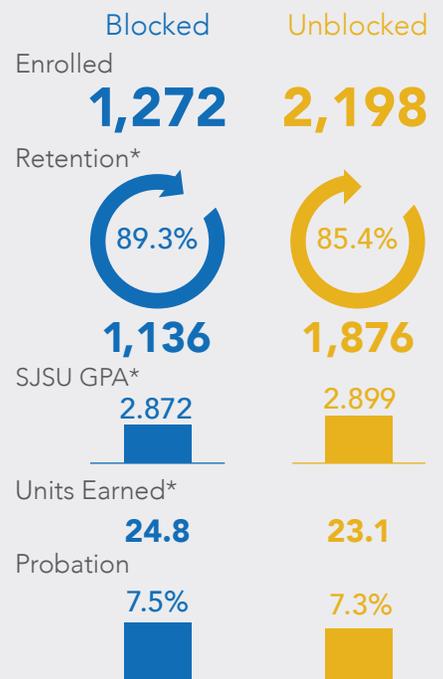
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## Block Scheduling

Fall 2016 was the second year we block scheduled all new freshmen in the College of Business, College of Engineering, and Child and Adolescent Development Department. For Fall 2016, freshmen from the Department of Music were added. These students were assigned schedules that included at least two shared classes with other students in their declared majors.

For Fall 2016 we block scheduled only 2 classes, preregistered students for those classes, and increased proactive communication with instructors regarding block scheduling, and peer mentors.

### Fall 2015 Freshmen



\* 1 year (2015-2016)

Contact Cindy Kato for more information

## Peer Educators & Mentors

In Fall 2016, we expanded the use of peer educators at SJSU. The targeted classes were lower division classes with either an average failure rate of 20% or more or a higher than the university average percentage of students at-risk for retention (URM, first generation, Pell eligible).

During the Fall 2016 semester, 50 Peer Educators worked with 30 faculty members either as a part of Peer Connections or as a special pilot program through Project Succeed. The Peer Educators were used as follows: 12 as tutors, 20 as mentors/hybrid, and 18 as Supplemental Instruction Leaders.

The peer educators took part in professional development opportunities to learn about and develop the skills that may be useful when working as a peer educator. Faculty also met to discuss the best practices of having a peer educator in the classroom and to share with others who were having a common experience. We will continue the efforts of the pilot program and using Peer Connections as a support for other classes in the Spring 2017 semester.

Contact Avina Ramnani or Deanna Peck for more information or to request a peer mentor or educator for one of your classes.

### Contacts

Maria Luisa Alaniz  
Patricia Backer  
Gale Holdren  
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Cindy Kato  
Deanna Peck  
Avina Ramnani  
Maureen Smith

Faculty Mentor Program Coordinator  
Project Director  
Program Grant Coordinator  
LLC Coordinator  
Block Scheduling Coordinator  
Peer Mentor & Educators Coordinator  
Peer Educator Intern  
FYE Coordinator

## Student Living Learning Communities

There are six Living Learning Communities (LLCs) located in the first year residential communities. The LLCs are meant to help students deepen their connection to their peers and faculty within a themed community. They are:

- Arts Village
- BUILD (Business Innovation & Leadership Development)
- CELL (Community for Engineering Living & Learning)
- Black Scholars Community
- Rainbow Village
- Global Village

Due to the success of block scheduling from Fall 2015, we block scheduled the BUILD and CELL LLCs for a second year and added a third LLC, Arts Village, in the Fall 2016. Students have reported benefiting from being in classes together as they build relationships with their peers.

In Spring 2016, we recruited and hired nine faculty members to serve as Faculty In Residence (FIR) who live in the residence halls and serve as a mentor to residents. The FIR program has strengthened the connection between faculty and students, enhanced the programming quality and breath, and established strong relationships as they interact within the residence halls. The faculty were assigned to each of the four residential areas, with six FIRs linked to each of the LLCs.

Contact Stephanie Hubbard for more information about the LLCs.

## First Year Experience

A meeting with faculty, staff, librarians, and students was held in September 2016. The group brainstormed around student needs and how to address them. Some of the needs discussed were social connections, life skills, and knowledge of campus resources.

The September meeting concluded with participants volunteering to develop and pilot test a range of FYE content delivery mechanisms such as a 3-unit FYE course, a 1-unit FYE course, a Student Housing based FYE program, and an Online/Hybrid Orientation Plus. These pilot programs will be developed in Spring 2017 and assessed in Fall 2017. To sign up for these task forces, please go to

<<https://goo.gl/forms/WBoDUcf2vZbucRgS2>>

An FYE Steering Committee was established at the September meeting. The Steering Committee will include faculty from across the campus, librarians, staff from a range of units, MPPs, and students. The role of the Steering Committee is to establish standards for FYE programs at SJSU and to oversee the development, piloting, and assessment of these FYE programs.

Contact Maureen Smith if interested in participating in developing an FYE pilot, or serving on the FYE Steering Committee.

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