

The background features a dark blue field with several overlapping, light blue concentric circles. A single dashed light blue line runs diagonally from the bottom-left towards the top-right, passing through the center of the circles.

*Exploring the Retention of
Our Students*

A Review of
Student Success Strategies

Exploring the Retention of Our Students

As part of the Strategic Priorities the college desires to have a Strategic Retention Plan that addresses the desires and multiple needs of various student populations that enter the doors of the institution.

Exploring the Retention of Our Students

- Strategic Priority E: Planning, Achieving and Managing Growth
 - Action Step E.4. To identify retention strategies for collegewide implementation
 - Expected Outcomes:
 - * Analyze internal and external retention research, consult with peer institutions, and review retention strategies that have been successful for MVCC faculty.

Exploring the Retention of Our Student

In April 03, full-time and adjunct faculty members received an e-mail request from the Retention Task Force that asked them to answer two questions that addressed the issues of retention strategies that are currently being used by them.

The results of the qualitative data collected drives are presentation this afternoon.

Exploring the Retention of Our Student

- Common themes in the responses to Question 1:
 - Learning each students first name as early as possible
 - Taking attendance
 - Having students complete an information card or survey
 - Building a sense of comfort (never making students feel stupid or inferior
 - Arriving early to class to greet the students on the first day and staying after to help clarify class objectives or general concerns
 - Start the expected class assignment with the students to help eliminate problems or what appears unsolvable questions.
 - Provide students with a final evaluation sheet and ask them to list all of their earned grades and what their expectations are of their earned class grade.

Exploring the Retention of Our Student

- Common themes in the responses to Question 2:
 - Provide good information that lets them know that college is not a scary place
 - Promote and support student life
 - All students should be treated as worthwhile and important individuals (making learning less adversarial so students see the teacher as an ally in their lives and in the educational setting). I am not sure that the administration's idea of students as "partner" in the "learning college" has penetrated the attitudes of faculty very much.
 - I am persistent so I can expect my students to be persistent. I do not cancel class, nor do I arrive late. If students miss more than one class, I call or e-mail them reminding them of the importance of consistent attendance.
 - As learning institutions we need to be open to the idea that not only are we teaching our students a particular curriculum, we are also teaching them about themselves.