Final Report for Curriculum Development Grant (CDC)

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1. Description of grant-supported activity:

The CDC grant allowed us to develop a Supplemental Instruction program for a pilot course, W131 Enhanced, which the English department is currently running in Fall 2016. The three sections include a third full class each week in a computer lab in order to support student success; we aim to reduce the need for a two-semester first-year writing sequence. We were able to train the supplemental instructors (Writers’ Room tutors) based on our current knowledge and practices in dealing with at-risk students, read Vincent Tinto’s *Completing College: Rethinking Institutional Action*, research similar institutions and their methods for implementing and assessing co-requisite courses, and review best practices as established by the College Reading and Learning Association.

2. Were you able to complete the project? Describe any difficulty you had.

We completed the project by:

- establishing behavioral criteria for student success
- creating specific lab exercises—curriculum-based actions that correspond directly to course goals
- developing Supplemental Instructor training modules
- developing a schedule for calibrating papers throughout the semester
- developing a portfolio review system for assessing final papers

In addition, the teachers and SIs continue to strategize ways to promote student success. For instance, we are currently drafting rubrics for student self-reflection in an effort to help students take ownership of their grades and progress in the course.

3. Did, or will, the project result in a specific product—a manuscript, composition, syllabus, etc? If so, please describe and indicate state of development.

In combination with the 20/20 grant for the same pilot, members of the pilot team, the original grant writer, and the Director of First-Year Writing are working on a conference presentation for SOTL in Spring 2017. Ideally, this group will pursue an article publication outlining the pilot and assessment results. The supplemental instruction is an essential component of the pilot’s make-up and, ultimately, its success. A draft of the article will be written and edited after the SOTL conference and completed during Summer 2017.