**

**Red Rocks Community College HISTORY department Operation Unit**

**College Improvement Process Summary Questions or CIP or informally DIP! (Department Improvement Plan)**

**QUESTION 1:** At this point, you should be able to articulate your ILEARN, Operational Unit, improvement plan. The questions below are three ways to ask the same thing. *In less than 50 words,* please respond to the question that makes the most sense to you.

1. What problem(s) have you identified in your Operational Unit that you will work to address?

The History department at RRCC has one main improvement we would like to focus upon after intra-department discussions and meetings on the CIP/DIP. With over 60% of students at RRCC required to take one HIS course, but only one course, our students enter with often an 8th-10th grade level of education and are not college ready. For our top 10-20% of students this is not an issue as they enter the course college ready. For the rest, it is difficult to pass the course and this leads to non-success rates based on D2L LMS data on average of 30-40% for our HIS courses. How can we aid this large group in successfully completing with a C or better the one HIS course they must take as part of the transfer or CTE program track they are on?

1. What is the focus of your Operational Unit improvement plan?

Our HIS department focus is in aiding this large group toward success in completion of the required HIS course. However we are under no illusions we can bring up their 9th grade average education entry status in just one course that is a 3 credit, 1:1 lecture, 45 contact hour, format. Our focus is to specifically help 5% of the non-successful completion group move into the successful completion category over the next 4 years.

1. What is your Operational Unit’s strategic plan for improvement?

Our HIS department strategic plan is to use a peer-to-peer model to develop a self-contained module based on the following timeline over the next 4 years:

Fall 2017-implement identification of top 10-20% student performers using already extant HIS course assessments and final grades. Develop a survey for this group to simply identify their measurable study habits on a weekly basis. This will be done across a representative cross-section of HIS courses yet to be determined. How many hours do they spend reading the text? How many hours on assignments? Etc.

Spring 2018-Implement formal survey for top performing students via D2L websites or printed versions after identification of top performers in representative cross-section of HIS courses (multiple learning formats such as online, classroom, weekend etc.) through the first half of course assignments and the midterm.

Fall 2018-Develop formal module of what success looks like in terms of hours spent on task weekly by our top performing students. This module can be placed in all HIS department D2L course websites so it can be available for any non-successful or struggling students. Allow fall 2018 as Beta test so any PT and FT instructors and faculty can attempt to utilize the module and identify struggling students and match them up with the module.

Spring 2019-Develop a formal struggling student identification process and formal HIS department policy as to matching up students with the module. Perhaps require the module if students dip below a C level in the course for any significant period of time.

Fall 2019-Begin to track the results of the peer-to-peer module approach and see if it is improving student outcomes. Expect a full data set by the end of the term.

Spring 2020-Formally assess the percentage of success increase with students who have engaged with the module. Goal is a 5% overall student success increase due to the peer-to-peer module.

**QUESTION 2:** What data supports the focus of the Operational Unit’s improvement plan?

Currently we utilize the D2L LMS office datasets on pass fail rates for our HIS department courses each term. These are most useful as they break down those rates by learning format or modality such as online, classroom, weekend etc.

**QUESTION 3:** By fall 2019, how will you know if your Operational Unit’s improvement plan worked? In other words, what are your indicators of success?

Between Fall of 2019 and Spring of 2020 we will be successful in this improvement plan if 5% of the students in the unsuccessful 40% of total course category have moved into successful completion of the course with a C or better result, after having engaged with the peer-to-peer weekly time on task module.