

Inquiry into Learning Community Impact

**Summary of Key Findings
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Springboard to Transfer

A Three-Semester Learning Community

Designed to Prepare Students for Transfer

Key Features:

- Same English instructor teaches all 3 semesters
- Shared courses help students build bonds with each other
- At least one book is shared between the two classes, to help students build connections between subjects
- Faculty share one office hour per week in the college reading and writing center to discuss student issues, coordinate due dates, and build integrative assignments
- All levels of English integrate reading, writing, and critical thinking.
- Program capacity is 88 students, split between 3 sections of English, 2 sections of the paired g.e. course, and 6 small sections of the first-term counseling course
- A core group of students enrolls for all three terms, and many new students join the program in semesters two and three, as spaces become available.

* In the first Springboard cycle, counselors offered a ½ unit “College Success” workshop series. Based on student feedback, we have replaced that course with the ½ unit “Transfer Planning” course above.

**Key Results from Springboard’s Founding Cohort:
Program Impact on Students Who Joined Learning Community in Fall 05**

- ♣ Higher persistence from developmental to transfer-level English (Fall 05-Spring 06)

- ♣ Higher retention in English 1A (Spring 06)

- ♣ Higher persistence from English 1A to English 4 (Spring 06-Fall 06)

- ♣ Higher retention in English 4 (Fall 06)

- ♣ Higher success in English 4 (Fall 06)

- ♣ Higher Completion of English Sequence (at end of Fall 06)

Important Context for these Results:

Springboard included more students from groups that are usually less successful in the English curriculum, and fewer students from groups that are usually more successful.

Springboard’s founding cohort had higher combined proportions of African-Americans and Latinos, and lower combined proportions of Whites and Asians than in the population that took a non-

learning community English 102 that term.

Also significant: By the time they reached the highest level of English composition, the comparison cohort had become *more* heavily White/Asian, with lower proportions of Black/Latino students. However, Springboard's founding cohort remained consistently high in its proportions of Black/Latino students, with consistently low proportions of Asian/White students.