

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Preliminary Report

Academic Summer Bridge Program

July 2, 2007-August 3, 2007

Submitted by:

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North Carolina A&T State University is striving to improve its retention rates. The University places emphasis in the UNC system priorities and especially in the areas of Student Success: Access, Retention, Graduation, and Affordability. These priorities also correspond with ensuring Quality Academic Programs and Support Services.

In order to improve retention rates, the University planned and implemented a Summer Bridge five-week residential academic support program for a select group of twenty (20) entering first-year students. The Academic summer Bridge Program was implemented the summer of 2007 during the dates of July 2, 2007 – August 3, 2007. The program was Mathematics and English intensive and the instructors for the summer bridge classes were trained in techniques of cooperative learning and designed the Mathematics and English transitional courses to engage students. Also, within this Bridge Program, students participated in time management workshops, test taking seminars, and mentoring colloquiums to assist in the academic success of the student. The students participated in pre and post testing in the courses to evaluate their learning outcomes. Students were also introduced to the Student Support Services of the University.

Program Mission Statement:

The mission of the Academic Summer Bridge Program, 2007 was to provide a rigorous academic residential program that assists entering freshmen students in making a successful transition from high school to college. The academic and related programs prepared students to become a part of an exciting learning community that engaged them through academic instruction, active learning, and social activities. The Program supported the University's commitment to excellence by providing students with:

- A stimulating and challenging academic experience
- Personalized, comprehensive advising and counseling
- An intellectually and socially enriching residential experience

Academic Bridge Students and Admission Data:

NAME*	MAJOR	HOMETOWN	GPA
	Engineering	Lewiston, NC	3.9
	Elementary Education	Winston Salem, NC	4.0
	Mechanical Engineering	Monroe, NC	3.2
	Biology	Raleigh, NC	3.3
	Electrical Engineering	Halifax, NC	3.7
	Undeclared	Hope Mills, NC	3.2
	Chemistry	Raleigh, NC	2.7
	Undeclared	Raleigh, NC	2.7
	Undeclared	Garner, NC	2.5
	Electrical Engineering	Washington, NC	2.9
	Marketing	Wake Forest, NC	2.4
	Graphic Communications	Newark, NC	2.0
	Accounting	Fayetteville, NC	2.3
	Business Administration	Raeford, NC	2.4
	Agricultural Education	Ashburn, Virginia	2.4
	Early Education/ Child Development	Wilson, NC	2.2
	Sociology	Greensboro, NC	2.3
	Business Administration	Durham, NC	3.1
	Undeclared	Durham, NC	2.4
	Music (General)	Asheville, NC	2.2

* Names removed due to confidentiality

The twenty (20) students who attended the Academic Summer Bridge Program enrolled as first-year full-time students at North Carolina A&T State University this fall of 2007. Their Fall Schedules are attached. Students expressed how they benefited from the instruction and learning experiences that targeted the foundational academic skills needed for success in college courses through reflections presentations at the program's closing ceremony. Examples of student reflections of the courses and the program are attached.

Several social and recreational activities were planned as a means to encourage students to interact with their peers and enjoy the "college experience." Throughout the Academic Summer Bridge program, counselors planned and coordinated numerous activities for students that encouraged personal and social growth.

The Academic Summer Bridge Program at North Carolina A&T State University allowed students to concentrate on academics, while preparing them to enter college confidently, knowing they can excel at NC A&T State University. Students were able to sort out their strengths and weaknesses, and grow through practicing appropriate learning and study strategies.

Academic Summer Bridge provided the opportunity for entering first-year students to make the transition from high school to college. Overall, this program was a gateway for college bound students to experience success while strengthening themselves academically as they begin their college career.

Student Fall Schedules (See Attachment A)

Pre- and Post-Test Data Comparisons (See Attachment B &C)

Program Schedule (See Attachment D)

Special Activities (See Attachment E)

Closing Ceremony Program (See Attachment F)

Courses Taken, Grades and credits earned (See Attachment G)

Procedure for Follow-up on Student Progress

A listing of the Bridge students' BANNER IDs is maintained. From this file, one can obtain the students' mid-term and final grades. At mid-term each student will be contacted and advised concerning their academic performance. Each student has been assigned to a faculty mentor who will be responsible for contacting the students during mid-term.

It is anticipated that the final grade data for the fall semester will be available after fall commencement. Our target date will be December 18, 2007. A WebFocus report will be developed to pull this data on a regular basis.

Examples of Academic Summer Bridge student reflections of the courses and the program (See Attachment H)