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*Nomination for the 2014-15 Exemplary Program Award*

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Please accept this as a formal nomination for The COLTS (Community of Leadership and Transfer Success) Academy program at Cañada College for the 2014-15 Exemplary Program Award.

The COLTS Academy program is in direct alignment with this year's award theme as it's designed to improve student success and retention for first-year high school to community college students. Students who recently graduated from high schools in San Mateo County were selected to participate in a free 4-day program that provided students the opportunity to:

1. **Connect** – meet Cañada Faculty, staff and fellow students, as well as connect with special programs (EOPS, TRIO, A2B, BTO, Outreach)
2. **Lead** – learn about leadership opportunities at Cañada College as well as how to be leaders in their educational journey
3. **Succeed** – walk away with a Transfer Success Portfolio equipped with tools and resources for college success, as well as connect with counseling and the financial aid office

COLTS Academy was held from Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup> to Thursday July 31, 2014 and featured fun and interactive workshops, a powerful mix of peer leaders who were mentors-for-the-day, access to free academic resources, and an offered an amazing opportunity for first-year students to get a head start on their academic career at Cañada.

This effort was a true campus collaborative as the steering committee consisted of members from across student and academic support services; ASCC, BTO, TRIO, STEM, A2B, Transfer Center, Career Center, Counseling, EOPS/CalWORKs, Learning Center, Outreach, Financial Aid, Welcome Center. We also included faculty in providing workshops; Michael Hoffman, The Growth Mindset.

We now have an effective model in place that serves first-year transitioning high school students to the community college that centers on collaboration among student and academic support services, classified and faculty involvement, utilizing peer mentoring as a key factor to connect new students to the campus, and can be replicated at any community college. This model includes evaluation, assessment and budget.

**Program Evaluation Report:**

**I. Who participated?**

- 84% of participants attended all four days of the COLTS Academy (Table 1).
- 68% of participants are women.
- 55% of participants are Hispanic.

**Table 1. Number of Registered and Participating Students**

<b>Number of students who registered</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Total number of participants</b>	<b>31</b>
Number of students who attended 4 days (full attendance)	26
Number of students who attended 3 days	3
Number of students who attended 1 day	2

**Table 2. Participant Demographics**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number (%)</b>
Female	21 (68%)
Male	10 (32%)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
Hispanic	17 (55%)
Multi Races	6 (19%)
White	5 (16%)
Asian and Pacific Islander	3 (10%)

**II. What did the participants learn?**

- Overall, after attending the COLTS Academy, participants felt more connected to other students, staff, and faculty at Cañada College. New students reported significant increases in their connectedness to other students, staff and faculty after the COLTS Academy (Table 2).

**Table 2. Average Participant Ratings on COLTS Academy Goals Before and After the Academy**

	<b>New Students (n=25)</b>		<b>Current Students (n=4)<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>Overall (n = 29)</b>	
	<i>Before COLTS</i>	<i>After COLTS</i>	<i>Before COLTS</i>	<i>After COLTS</i>	<i>Before COLTS</i>	<i>After COLTS</i>
<b>1. I feel connected to Cañada students.</b>	1.64	4.40*	3.25	3.75	1.86	4.31
<b>2. I feel connected to Cañada staff.</b>	1.60	4.44*	2.75	3.50	1.76	4.31
<b>3. I feel connected to Cañada faculty.</b>	1.56	4.08*	3.50	4.00	1.83	4.07
<b>4. I have leadership skills.</b>	3.04	4.04*	3.25	3.75	3.07	4.00
<b>5. I am aware of the student services and programs available to me at Cañada.</b>	1.92	4.72*	3.00	4.25	2.07	4.66
<b>6. I have a completed transfer portfolio.</b>	1.20	3.88*	3.00	3.50	1.45	3.83

Data based on post program evaluation form completed anonymously by 29 participants.

1. Current students were those who indicated on the evaluation form that they were existing Canada students or have completed a transfer portfolio before COLTS Academy.

\*Indicates significant differences between before and after workshop responses ( $p < .001$ )

- Participants reported gaining more leadership skills after participating in the COLTS Academy (overall mean =4.0), even though many reported having some leadership skill prior to the COLTS Academy (overall mean=3.1).
- Participants reported having more awareness about the services and programs available at Cañada College after participating in the COLTS Academy.
- The degree of having a complete transfer portfolio increased after participation in the COLTS Academy.
- For new students, the connections made and information gained were significant before and after participation in the COLTS Academy.
- 100% of the new-student and 3 out of 4 current-student participants would recommend COLTS Academy to a friend.

**Participants found the most beneficial activities to be..... [Direct quotes]**

<i>Having the small groups with peer leaders and getting the campus tour with all of the resources.</i>	<i>Tours, study skills, and being in a random group with students.</i>
<i>All the resources here on campus, all the programs and clubs. All the amazing people who are willing to help us.</i>	<i>All of the information. There was a lot of stuff, I total forgot about.</i>
<i>I think the most beneficial activity of the COLTS Academy was learning about programs and working on ourselves.</i>	<i>Learning about all the resources and help there is on this campus and meeting new people.</i>
<i>About programs and supports</i>	<i>The programs shared.</i>
<i>All the programs like Trio, A2B, and BTO.</i>	<i>Visiting the offices of each program to learn about them.</i>
<i>Information about the various programs offered at Cañada, financial and the tour.</i>	<i>The bonding was "let me, let loose" and be pumped for learning new stuff.</i>
<i>Meeting staff and having a tour.</i>	<i>Tour and the talk about all the support on campus.</i>
<i>All the workshops. You guys covered everything just enough, and in some cases extremely well.</i>	<i>Very informative, makes students aware of what is going on.</i>
<i>All of it!! I had all my questions answered.</i>	<i>Financial aid, transferring, tour and meeting staff.</i>
<i>Everything was great. It gave us very good information.</i>	<i>This would be great help for new Cañada students.</i>
<i>The connection towards the school, resources and students. I learned everything that I needed to learn.</i>	<i>Everything! I think it was all very useful and a great experience. I have learned a lot!</i>
<i>Transfer and about homework, and get a full tour of the school.</i>	<i>Get ready to transfer.</i>
<i>I believe the workshop on transfer and the well-being one was great.</i>	<i>The transfer program workshop.</i>
<i>Learning about financial aid and all of the programs offered here.</i>	<i>I found everything beneficial! Touring the school, getting to know what is offered for us. It's absolutely amazing! I had the greatest time! I wasn't aware of all the programs and I joined three of them because of COLTS Academy! The food was great!</i>

**Instagram comments (#ColtsAcademy):**

- "Speechless. #succeed #DoLifeBig #the best"
- "This last week has been awesome! Met some awesome people and got my masters in a day (not really) #TRU"
- "Having a blast"

**Participants would like to learn more about or have....**

1. Transferring (including general information, college majors, financial aid at 4-yr colleges, SEP) (n=5)
2. Programs at Cañada (including academic, student activities, and student services) (n=3)
3. More connections to other students, faculty and staff (n=2)
4. More days of COLTS (n=2)
5. More college readiness skills (n=1)
6. Different groups for new students vs. current students (n=1)

Data on students who connected/enrolled into special programs post COLTS Academy (LERS, TRIO, A2B, BTO, ASCC, STEM, and Outreach):

<b>COLTS Academy Attendance</b>	<b># of Programs</b>	<b># of Students</b>	<b>% of Student Participation</b>
4 Day Attendance (26)	One program	16	61%
Total Attendance (32)	One program	20	62%
4 Day Attendance (26)	More than one program	9	34%
Total Attendance (32)	More than one program	12	38%

Over 60% of COLTS Academy participants connected to at least on special program on campus.