



# Institutional Effectiveness Plan

## Success Story

### Improving Student Success

#### The Computer Science Department

October 2016



#### About the Computer Science Department:

The Computer Science Department serves South Texas College by preparing students to realize a successful career in the highly demanding fields of Computer Science (CS) and Computer Information Systems (CIS). The main IE goal of the Computer Science Department was to improve student success. To accomplish this goal, Computer Science faculty and staff focused on providing the highest quality instruction available, and on ensuring that students learn to utilize the most up-to-date technology available. Through these strategies, the department was able to raise the CS retention rate by 10% and the CIS retention rate by 5%.

#### Featured Goal:

- **Improve Student Success** – the Computer Science Department will provide students with the tools and opportunities for success.

#### Strategies:

- Create a specialized computer programming lab for students at the Pecan Campus, and staff the computer lab with assistants who possess technical expertise in computer programming
- Utilize TeamViewer software to allow tutors to view the student's computer screen during online tutoring sessions
- Participate in professional development opportunities that will improve the quality of classroom instruction



The Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Assessment

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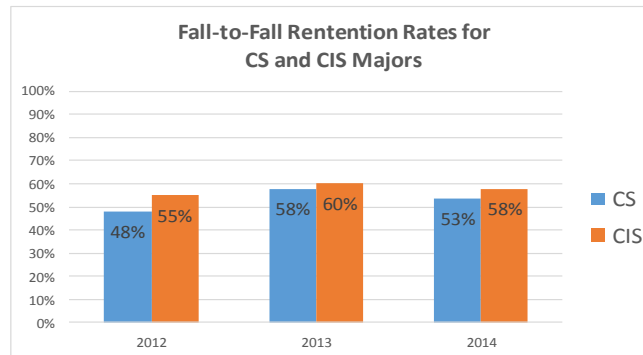
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#### Results:

- The Computer Science lab was completed during the 2013-2015 cycle. On-campus tutoring is available for students between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the M Building at the Pecan Campus.
- The retention rate for CIS majors increased by 5%, and 10% for CS majors.



- Computer Science faculty participated in professional development opportunities such as the FOCUS Academy which offers training regarding teaching skills and methods.



CS Professional Development Spring 2016

#### Recommendations:

- Provide full-time Computer Science lab assistant for Mid-Valley campus
- Appoint a full-time Computer Science retention specialist
- Extend the operating hours to 7 days per week with full-time lab assistants



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