Name of Innovation: Learning Commons

Location: Dale Mabry Campus Library (Learning Resources Center)

Organization: Hillsborough Community College (fifth-largest public community college in the Florida system, serving over 43,000 students at five campuses and MacDill Air Base center)

Team Nominees: Dr. Mary Bendickson, Dean of Associate in Arts; Mr. Brent Ellis, Assistant Dean; Ms. Marcella Sherman, Writing Center Supervisor

Learning commons design, with centralized student resources, contributes to student success through obvious expediency and can also contribute to the sense of community proven essential to student success, an academic community often difficult for community colleges to sustain. In Fall 2008, the writing and tutoring centers, with a ten-year record of successful one-on-one academic assistance rated in the top five College services, joined under one coordinator and relocated to the library building to enhance individual guidance with ready access to library resources, computer labs, group and quiet study space. The efficient, collaborative consolidation also affords motivating, supportive, comfortable workspace. The Learning Commons logged 23,101 visits the first semester; the library building gate count increased 26%. Beyond numbers and countless positive anecdotes, research on usage and outcomes is now systematically gathered and compiled to permit replication on all campuses.
The Learning Commons, located in the Dale Mabry Learning Resources Center, offers one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance services to all HCC students. The Learning Commons' well-qualified staff are dedicated to helping students to achieve academic goals in their classes and to develop the skills necessary to succeed in college and beyond. At all times, staff are mindful of individual potential and objectives, instructors' requirements, and students' desire to meet those requirements.

In addition, students can find the advice and encouragement essential to fulfilling their potential to become truly independent learners and strong, confident writers.

The Learning Commons also houses computer labs for student use for all academic purposes: homework assignments, writing assignments, Internet research, online course work. Visit the Learning Commons where the resources for success are available to all students.

Tutoring and Writing Assistance
Succeed in College and Beyond

- One-on-one tutoring assistance for HCC classes
  - Math
  - Science
  - Business
  - Technology
  - Languages
  - Tutoring assistance is available by appointment (30, 45, 60 minute sessions).
  - Walk-in assistance may also be available.
  - Visit the Tutoring Commons to register.

Tutoring staff can help students
- Identify difficult areas in a subject or class
- Understand and master material
- Recognize individual academic strengths and learning styles
- Develop strategies for working through and retaining material
- Learn how to benefit from class lectures, notes, textbooks
• Maintain good homework, preparation, and study habits
• Take tests successfully
  Tutoring staff will not complete students' homework, provide answers without reviewing needed concepts, check take-home exams, second-guess the instructor or the assignment.

One-on-one writing assistance for any assignment for any HCC class
Writing assistance is available on a walk-in basis; no appointments are required.
Grammar Hotline: (813)253-7536
Writing staff can help students
• Find a topic
• Narrow the topic
• Focus the thesis
• Generate support for the thesis
• Organize thoughts on paper
• Learn to write for an audience
• Review grammar concepts
• Polish the draft
• Research and document sources
• Continually develop and improve writing skills
  A revised draft may be reviewed in one additional writing conference. Writing staff will not proofread or edit papers, write on students' papers, read papers on the submission day, overlook plagiarism in any form, read papers without writers present, read papers for non-HCC classes, spend more than 45 minutes in each writing conference, read more than one assignment in each writing conference, second-guess the instructor or the assignment.

Dale Mabry Campus Learning Resources Center Hours
Monday-Thursday 8:00AM - 8:00PM
Friday 8:00AM - 2:00PM
Saturday 8:00AM - 3:00PM
Tutoring Commons
DLRC 209
(813) 253-7445
Writing Commons
DLRC 312
(813) 253-7536
Internet
www.hccfl.edu/dm/student-services/learning-commons.aspx
Email
dmlearningcommons@hccfl.edu
Learning Commons Services

The Learning Commons, located in the Dale Mabry Learning Resources Center, offers one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance services to all HCC students. The Learning Commons’ well-qualified staff are dedicated to helping students to achieve academic goals in their classes and to develop the skills necessary to succeed in college and beyond.

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HCC is an equal access/equal opportunity employer that makes employment and education-related decisions without regard to race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, disability or marital status or any other bias that is or may be prohibited by law. In addition, the College does not discriminate in our employment practices or in the admission and treatment of students. HCC is committed to equitable treatment of all students and employees and to working towards a learning and working environment free of discrimination and harassment for current as well as prospective students and employees. The College provides equal educational opportunities to qualified individuals with disabilities and complies with and fully supports the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Learning Commons

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Internet
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/learning-commons.aspx

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Tutoring Commons DLRC 209
One-on-one tutoring assistance for HCC classes
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- Business
- Technology
- Languages
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- Take tests successfully

Writing Commons DLRC 312
One-on-one writing assistance for any assignment for any HCC class

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- Narrow the topic
- Focus the thesis
- Generate support for the thesis
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- Review grammar concepts
- Polish the draft
- Research and document sources
- Continually develop and improve writing skills

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