

Report on Measure G Programs: Beating the Odds Peer Mentorship Program

1. Provide a brief description of your program/service (50 words or fewer). The focus of the Beating the Odds Peer Mentorship Program (BTO) is to increase retention rates and persistence while providing a positive and successful transition for first generation college students. BTO was established in Fall 2011 and is designed to help first generation college students including AB540 and undocumented students to succeed through the support of their peers. Participants (mentees) are paired with a BTO peer mentor with similar background and academic interests for an entire academic year. We also provide mentoring and tutoring to high school students participating in Sequoia's SAFE Afterschool program.

2. Is the college contractually obliged to provide your program/service? Explain.

While we are not contractually obligated to provide services, however we would consider it to be our institutional obligation to provide services to this particular population especially our undocumented student population.

3. Is the college obligated to provide your program/service in order to meet accreditation requirements? Explain.

Yes, accreditation does not specifically address first generation college students and peer mentorship, Standard IIB3 states, "The institution researches and identifies the learning support needs of its student population and provides appropriate services and programs to address those needs." With the growing diversity of our student population of first generation students and undocumented students, we have identified "needs" of our students and are providing services to enrich their experience and path towards completion.

4. How does your program/service specifically support objectives of the Educational Master Plan or other strategic plans?

Our program supports the following objectives:

EMP Objective 1.4: Create and implement a student engagement plan to integrate the college experience inside and outside the classroom, enhance the college experience, and promote retention and success.

EMP Objective 2.6: Improve progress through increased intentional counseling and other services to guide students to completion of their goals.

EMP Completion Object 2.8: Improve progress by creating opportunities for faculty-student and student-student (peer) mentorships.

EMP Community Connections Objective 3.3: Integrate Service Learning and Internship opportunities for students into academic and student life.

Student Equity Plan 4.1: Increase the completion rates of Hispanic, male, Black, and Filipino students.

Student Engagement Plan: Connected – Every student makes significant connection with another person as soon as possible upon arriving at the college.

5. How many students (headcount) per semester are served by your program/service in an academic year?

BTO serves approximately a total of 130: 120 students (mentees) per semester and 12 peer mentors. We have yet to determine the number of students we serve at Sequoia's SAFE After School program.

6. Does your program/service provide for the needs of a special population of students? Yes, our services provide the needs for first generation college students who are underserved and underrepresented who may also be low-income, AB540, undocumented, and may have a learning difference.

7. What is your evidence of program success?

We have measured students' awareness of tutoring services for this year's program review and noticed an increase in knowledge of services. As for the peer mentors, we have been collecting quantitative and qualitative data on peer mentors progress, life learning skills, and mentorship abilities. We will be working with the Planning and Research department to implement Data Dashboard in order to measure the success, retention, and completion rates of our program participants.

8. What measures would be required in order to accommodate your current students if your program were to lose funding? If we were to lose funding we would need to identify ways to support the costs of 12 peer mentors as well as 20% of the BTO Program Services Coordinator position.

9. What specific measures of cost savings to your program/service can you propose? What are the consequences of implementing these measures?

As a cost savings measure, we have partnered with other programs such as A2B and STEM to cover the costs of their program-specific mentors. We have also partnered with TRiO to provide a math and writing instructional aide. Our program runs at a minimal cost as the program services coordinator is funding through various means 50% TRiO, 20% Vets (Fund 1), and 30% BTO (Measure G). As a result of implementing these measures, our program would become fragmented and services may be limited.

10. What other possible sources of funding might be available to fund your program/service? We have been phasing out Measure G funds by using Trio and Fund 1 that was provided for TRiO summer support to cover the BTO-related costs for the coordinator position. We can seek potential grants to fund our program.