

Learning Culture as a Strategy for Student Success

- Moving from Theory to Practice



Missing Millions



AHSIE

Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators

How?

- Intentional, culturally responsive pedagogy
- Asset-based approaches focused on strengths
- Experiential learning
- Guided pathways
- Competency-based learning



How?

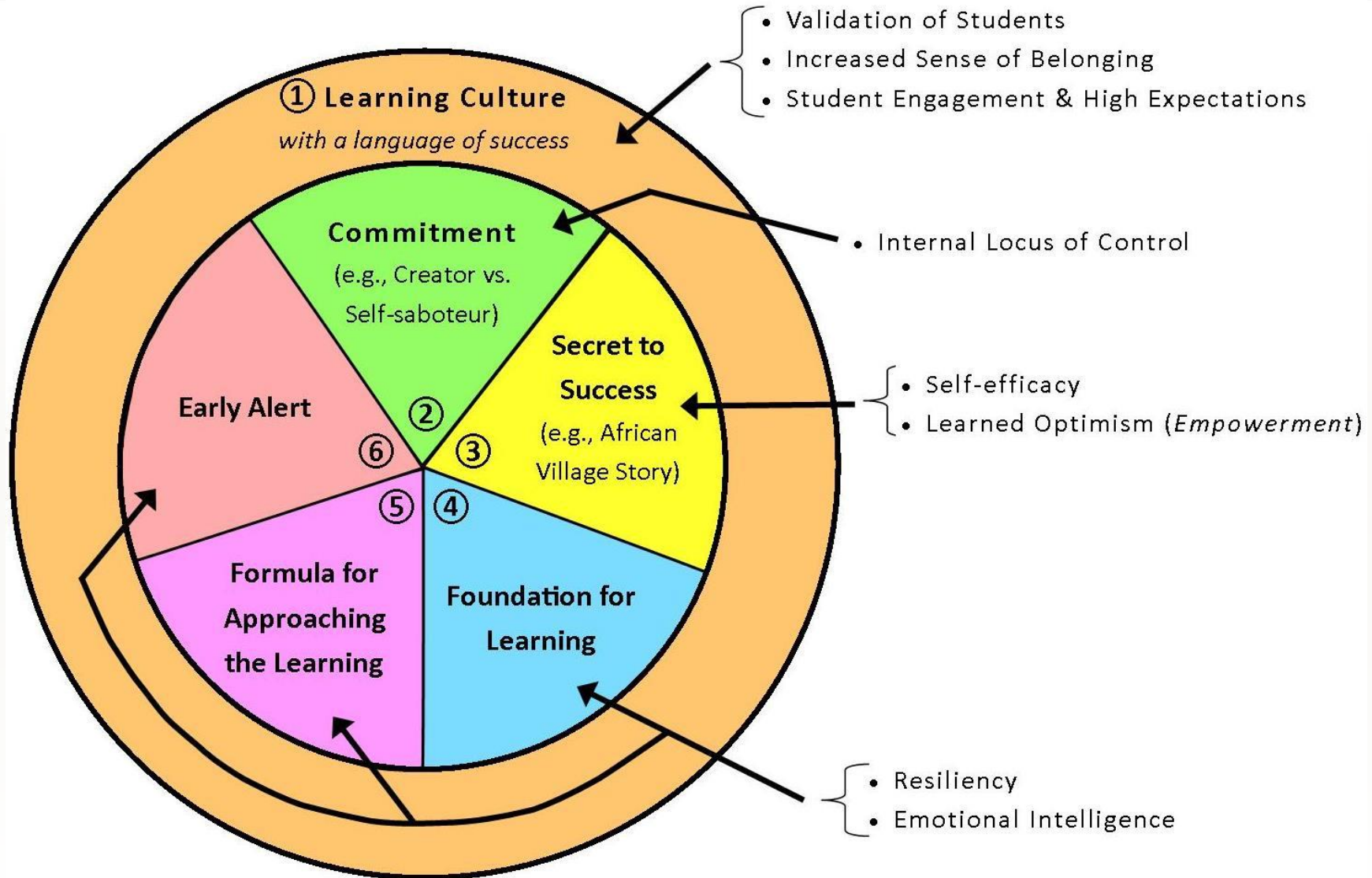
- Intentional, culturally responsive pedagogy
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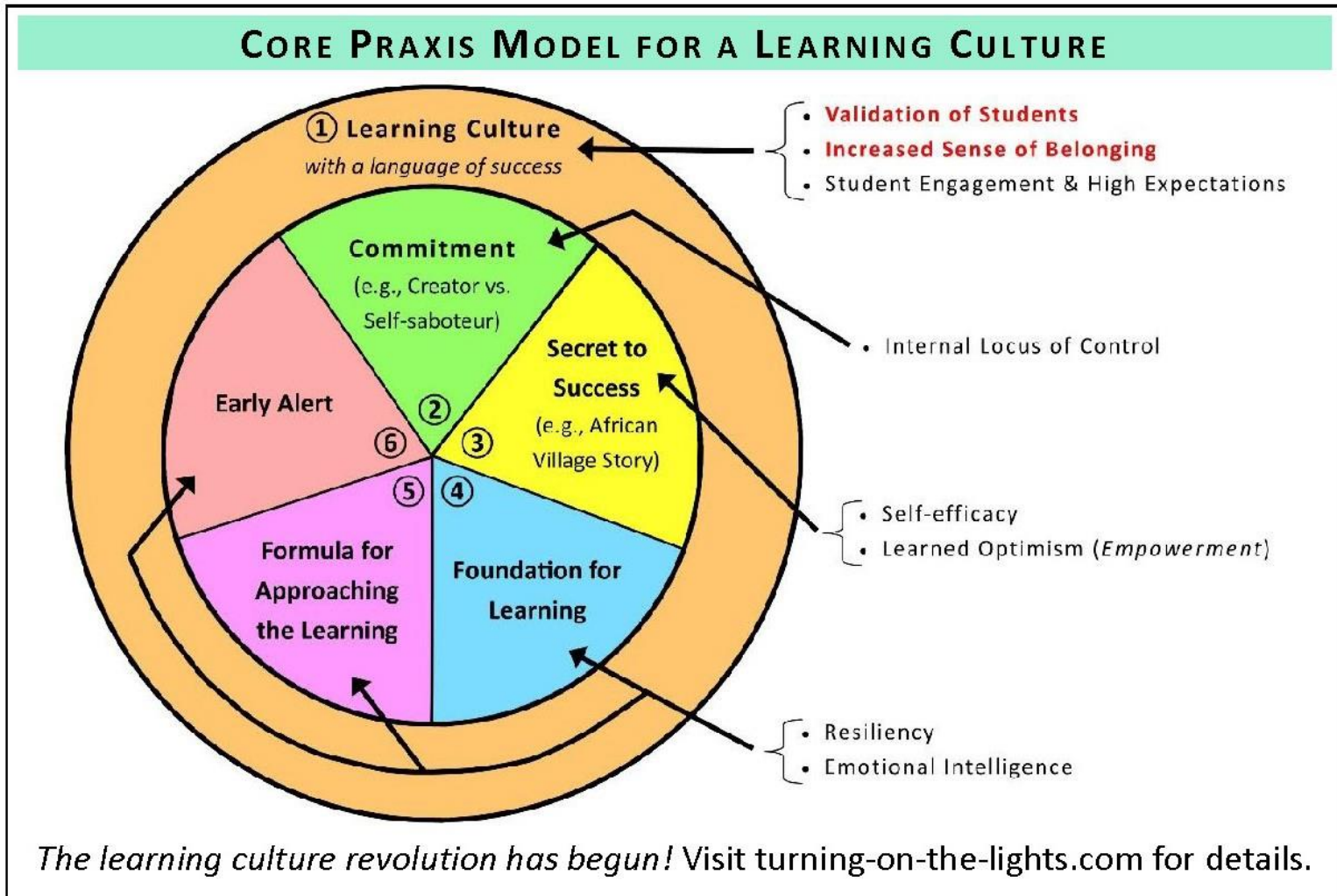
Turn on the lights!

Use “learning culture” to increase student success.

Learning Culture as a Strategy for Student Success: Core Praxis Model for a Learning Culture



Lessons Learned for Educators: Core Praxis Model for a Learning Culture



Horizontal 6" x 4" display

Welcome to the Learning Culture

Introduction to Learning Culture Revolution



turning-on-the-lights.com

The Corner Man



Rafael D. Alvarez
MESA Program Director

SAN DIEGO
CITY COLLEGE



Turning on the Lights: Using Learning Culture to Increase Student Success

Knowing How to Approach
the Learning



Learning Culture

I. Why Learning Culture?

II. Having a Mindset for Learning

III. Knowing How to Approach the Learning

IV. Leadership, Internships & Research

V. Educational Planning Basics:
Things to know!

CONTENTS

Part I. Why Learning Culture?

Part II. Having a Mindset for Learning

Potential ♦ Commitment: Creator vs. Self-saboteur ♦ Secret to Success ♦ Important Factors for College Readiness and Success: Self-advocacy, Emotional Intelligence, Mental Toughness, Goal Focus ♦ **Purpose for the Learning – FREEDOM!** ♦ Embracing Vulnerability

Inspirational Stories: The Race ♦ The Fight ♦ Hall of Famer

Part III. Knowing How to Approach the Learning

Big Picture Approach to Problem Solving

Formula for Approaching the Learning

BPR: Bullet Point Reading, Class, RLN: Review Lecture Notes, Homework, Section Summaries

Non-STEM Classes: Approach to the Learning

Other Strategies

Plan of Attack - What is your plan? ♦ Strategy for Organizing Class Work

♦ Test Taking Strategies ♦ Time Management Strategies ♦ Lecture Videos and

Online Resources ♦ Semester Kickoff – Steps to Success ♦ Interaction with Faculty:

Hello my name is ♦ Early Alert

Creator Laws ♦ Reflection & Mastery ♦ Ten-point Strategic Plan for University Success



Part IV. Leadership, Internships & Research

CliftonStrengths® – *know your strengths!*

Culture of Effective Leadership – Foundation for Leadership

Resume – Overview

Professional Canvas & Professional Brand ♦ Resume Basics ♦ Professional Summary

Interview Tips

Know Your Company! Guide for Researching Companies ♦ Mock Interviews

♦ Elevator Pitch ♦ STAR Response Technique for Interviews ♦ Owning the Interview

♦ How Will You Measure Up?

Summer Research Programs

Finding Summer Programs ♦ The Personal Statement – *what every Creator needs to know!* ♦ Letters of Recommendation ♦ Strategic Plan for Summer Programs

LinkedIn®

Part V. Educational Planning Basics: *Things to know!*

Degrees & Certificates ♦ Educational Planning ♦ Drops & Withdrawals

The learning culture revolution has begun!

Visit turning-on-the-lights.com for details.

Learning Culture

Part II. Having a Mindset for Learning

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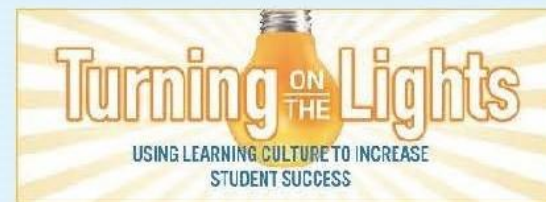
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Beyond Growth Mindset

Learning Mindsets Matter.

Four Core Learning Mindsets

Growth Mindset

The belief that intelligence is malleable.

G

Purpose and Relevance

The belief that that one's schoolwork is valuable because it is connected to a larger purpose and/or relevant to one's life.

P

Belonging Uncertainty

Uncertainty about the quality of one's social and academic bonds.

BU

Perception of Instructor Growth Mindset

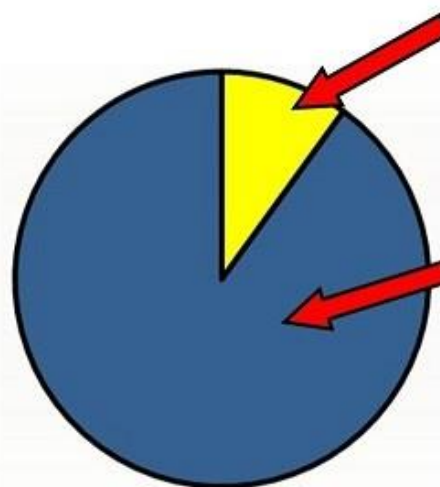
Perception that one's instructor thinks they can grow and learn.

IM

Strong Start to Finish: Learning Mindsets Matter for Students in Corequisite Courses

Yes, *and* Having a Mindset for Learning is Most Important!

Going *Beyond* Growth Mindset



Learning Culture

Knowing How to Approach the Learning

Includes the focus for the learning (*Big Picture*), the *Formula for Approaching the Learning* to have control of one's learning, and other key strategies, including *Semester Kickoff* strategy and tool for interacting with faculty beginning Week 1 (*Hello my name is*).

Having a Mindset for Learning

Includes *potential* (this is NOT questioned), *commitment* (this IS questioned), *self-advocacy* (= fight for yourself. Opposite of being shy), *emotional intelligence*, *mental toughness*, *goal focus*, the *secret to success* (i.e., must want it!), the *purpose for the learning* — FREEDOM (gives the ability to define oneself, rather than be defined by others, outcomes or situations), and *embracing vulnerability*.

Turning on the Lights: Using Learning Culture to Increase Student Success

LEARNING CULTURE

Having a Mindset for Learning

Potential: Student potential is NOT questioned in the learning culture. All students have many strengths and great potential!

Commitment: Student commitment IS questioned in the learning culture. *Creators* accept responsibility, take action, and seek solutions, while *Self-saboteurs* blame, complain, and make excuses.

Secret to Success: You must want it as much as you want to breathe, and this must be demonstrated by actions, not words.

Important Factors for College Readiness and Success: **Self-advocacy** (= *fight for yourself!* This is the opposite of being shy.), **Emotional Intelligence**, **Mental Toughness**, and **Goal Focus**.

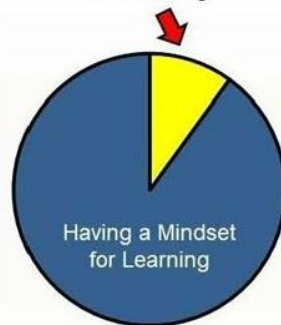
Purpose for the Learning – FREEDOM! This gives students the ability to define themselves, rather than be defined by others, outcomes or situations. *YOU define YOU!*

Embracing Vulnerability: *This is not a question.* It is what you do to become a successful student and courageous leader.



Vertical 4" x 6" display

Knowing How to Approach the Learning



Learning Culture Stand Up Displays

Available at turning-on-the-lights.com

See "Videos & Resources"

The learning culture revolution has begun!

LEARNING CULTURE: Knowing How to Approach the Learning

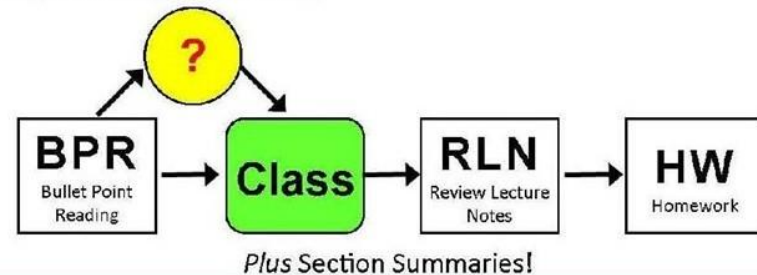
Big Picture Approach to Problem Solving

1 - Concept?

2 - Steps?

3 - Variation?

Formula for Approaching the Learning



Other Strategies:

- Plan of Attack
- Strategy for Organizing Class Work
- Test Taking Strategies
- Time Management Strategies
- Lecture Videos and Online Resources
- Semester Kickoff
- Interaction with Faculty: *Hello my name is*
- Early Alert

The learning culture revolution has begun! Visit turning-on-the-lights.com for details.

Horizontal 6" x 4" display

Learning Culture Resources

Potential

Student potential is **NOT** questioned in the learning culture. All students have many strengths and great potential!

Freedom

The purpose for the learning — the goal for all students in the learning culture is to achieve **FREEDOM!**

Strengths

Gaps

Commitment

Student commitment **IS** questioned in the learning culture.

Foundation for Learning

Success begins with a strong foundation for learning.

Learning Culture

Secret to Success

If you want to succeed in anything, then you must want it as much as you want to breathe!

© TURNING ON THE LIGHTS

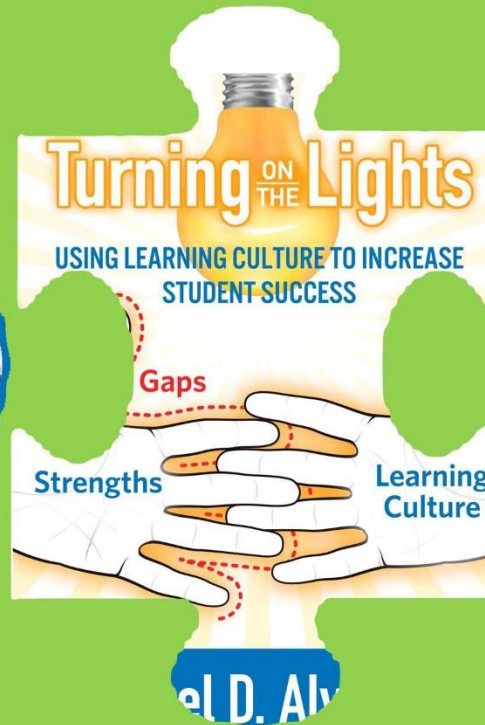
Visit turning-on-the-lights.com

Innovation for All

FACULTY



Learning Culture Praxis



STUDENTS



Learning Culture

Bay Area Learning Culture Network for Increasing Student Success & Transfer

LEAD REVOLUTIONARY

Tiffany Reardon

Associate Director for Engineering Excellence Programs

UC Berkeley College of Engineering

treardon@berkeley.edu



**Berkeley City College ♦ Canada College ♦ Chabot College ♦ City College of San Francisco
College of Alameda ♦ College of Marin ♦ College of San Mateo ♦ Contra Costa College
De Anza College ♦ Diablo Valley College ♦ Evergreen Valley College ♦ Foothill College
Laney College ♦ Los Medanos College ♦ Mission College ♦ Merritt College
Napa Valley College ♦ Ohlone College ♦ San Jose City College ♦ Skyline College
West Valley College**

Bay Area Learning Culture Network for Increasing Student Success & Transfer

Q&A – January 28, 2022



Tiffany Reardon-

*Associate Director for Engineering Excellence Programs
UC Berkeley College of Engineering*

“The learning culture is so impactful and powerful. *Turning on the Lights* puts everything together in one nice package. I really appreciate the approach. It is not a deficit model. In fact, just the opposite. We are celebrating what students bring to the table, and closing any gaps. It (*Turning on the Lights*) speaks to students in a language that they will understand because it humanizes the experience. I'm excited about utilizing it for incoming freshmen.”



Jennifer Grant -

*San Diego City College transfer & MESA Creator
UC Berkeley graduate (B.S. Mathematics)*

“This (learning culture) revolution is empowering and enabling students to be successful, and I think as leaders on your campus that should be your main focus. *Turning on the Lights* works. I'm excited for the next generation of transfer students coming from your institutions, if you do decide to do this (introduce the learning culture).”



Dr. Laura I. Rendon -

Student advocate, activist scholar and contemplative educator

“Congratulations to all of you for the work that you're doing. This whole network of community colleges and UC Berkeley is going to just grow and grow. Expanding that network is going to be very important. You have a model here that is needed for educators that are working particularly with low income, first generation students who have the drive, who have the hopes and dreams, who have the *ganas* (desire to succeed) to go on and be scientists, architects, professors - whatever they want to do, but they often don't know how to realize those dreams. You're offering an empowering based approach that really takes what's inside of the students - that power is there, that resilience is there, it just needs to be brought out, and this is what you're doing, which is one of the most important things that can happen when students participate in the learning culture.”

Companion Lessons for HS Students

1. Dealing with Negativity
2. Deep Culture
3. Mental Toughness
4. **Commitment: Creator vs. Self-Saboteur**
5. Self-advocacy
6. Mindset
7. Time Management
8. How Education Leads to Freedom



Emily Neidhart
Teacher & Coord.
College Prep
Garfield HS

Corner Man's Sample Plan

- Introduce
- Engage
- Model, model, model
- Reinforce, reinforce, reinforce
- Follow-up & survey
- *Data?*



YOU define YOU!



“The MESA learning culture has given me two main skills: **Mental toughness** and **self-advocacy**. These have given me the ability to focus and follow through on my schoolwork and my long term goals. The learning culture has also taught me about the meaning of ‘**You define You**.’ This is immensely powerful because the biggest enemy we often face is ourselves. The phrase ‘You define You’ has struck with me since my first day at City College. It’s a phrase I go back home to when I feel lost or overwhelmed. It has given me direction and a sense of purpose and motivation to work towards my goals.”

YOU define YOU!



Dr. Beto Vasquez

Ed.D. Educational Leadership
San Diego State University

B.S. & M.S. Biology
University of California San Diego

and formerly incarcerated!



**SAN DIEGO
CITY COLLEGE**

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month - October 2021



DOCTORAL SCHOLARS



HARVARD • JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY • MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY • RICE UNIVERSITY • SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
STANFORD • UC LOS ANGELES • UC SAN DIEGO • UC SAN FRANCISCO
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA • UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN • UPPSALA UNIVERSITY (Sweden) • VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Developing STEM scholars & leaders ... **MESA** works!

League Award Winners



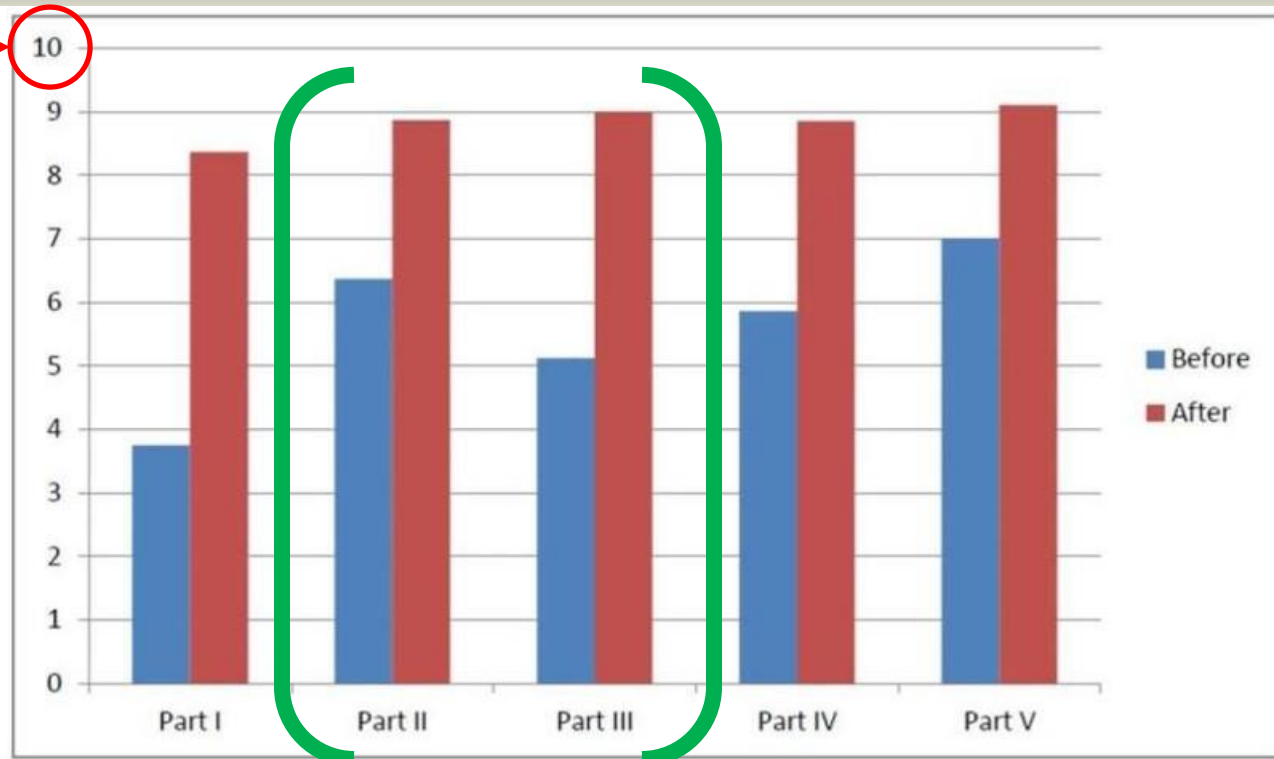
2022



2012

Impact of Learning Culture Training

MESA Creator level →



Impact of Learning Culture Training: Before vs. After - Averages

Part I. Why Learning Culture? (123% increase)

Part II. Having a Mindset for Learning (+39%)

Part III. Knowing How to Approach the Learning (+76%)

Part IV. Leadership, Internships & Research (+51%)

Part V. Educational Planning Basics — *Things to know!* (+30%)

Scholars & Leaders



Gatekeepers or Gate-smashers?



“I wish I you knew it (learning culture) when I started!”
- typical college student

Thank you!



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