



SWCC First Foundation Course

## ACE Expansion

Three community colleges are launching ACE cohorts for the first time this fall. This expansion is exciting for all of us at the ACE Center, as well as for our ACE College Partners at [Delaware County Community College](#) (DCCC) in Media, Pennsylvania; [Southwest Virginia Community College](#) (SWCC) in Richlands, Virginia, and at [Los Medanos College](#) (LMC) in Pittsburg, California.

ACE programs are being adopted by colleges with diverse demographics and geographic areas. For example, DCCC is focusing their ACE program at their campus outside of Philadelphia, with a predominantly African-American community. SWCC serves rural Appalachian coal-mining communities where students may walk several miles to catch a 6:30 am bus to the college. And LMC draws on the multi-cultural diversity for which the San Francisco Bay Area is famous.

ACE director Diego Navarro said, "I am happy to extend a special welcome to our new ACE Partner Colleges. The faculty and staff at each of these community colleges have been outstanding partners and all have brought new qualities that are helping ACE to improve our effectiveness. The leaders of these colleges have each brought a deep knowledge of higher education, sincere interest in successful developmental learning programs, and their commitment to meeting the unique needs of their local communities."

Diego shared his joy in working with these new colleagues: "This summer I was involved in ACE's professional development training, the [Faculty Experiential Learning Institute](#) (FELI) held at SWCC and at DCCC. In addition to the immense pleasure I had meeting with the faculty and staff of these colleges, I also learned a lot about their institutions and the sort of students and communities they serve. This has been invaluable, helping the ACE Center understand what it takes to implement ACE curriculum outside of California."

"We've also enjoyed having faculty and staff of Los Medanos College at our previous FELI trainings. LMC is helping us evaluate their approach of combining acceleration of English and Math in one cohort. We look forward to learning about their results."

This expansion is raising the bar for the ACE Center. To meet the needs of staff and faculty at colleges in distant locales, we are making rapid improvements to our virtual delivery of workshops and training services. We are also developing our Community of Practice capabilities to support College Partners outside of California.

We wish our new College Partners success with their ACE programs this first semester and look forward to a continuing partnership for many years to come.