Learning Communities

"Learning communities can occur within a course or exist as paired courses. Either way, the goal of learning communities is that "students encounter learning as a shared experience rather than isolated experience" (Tinto, 1997b, 602). Extensive data indicate that these shared experiences contribute to the overall success and retention of developmental and transfer students. Further, Tinto claims that learning communities "emphasizing collaborative learning have a positive impact on student attitudes toward learning." His research also suggests that learning communities and collaborative learning activities have a positive effect on the academic performance and persistence of developmental students."

"Colleges should be thoughtful and deliberate in selecting a learning community approach to meet the needs of specific cohorts of developmental students."