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**simple + proactive faculty practices to increase student engagement and retention**

*to employ – especially – in the first 2 weeks of the semester*

▶ **SHOW YOUR STUDENTS THAT YOU CARE**

- ✓ learn and use your students' names
- ✓ greet and welcome them to class each class session
- ✓ connect with students individually with simple interactions: *"How are you?"*  
*"How are your other classes going?"* *"Thanks for your contributions in class today."*  
*"Looking forward to seeing you next class session."*
- ✓ check in with students who are absent or appear under-engaged
- ✓ offer 5-minute mini meetings for students to introduce themselves to you personally
- ✓ listen carefully to student comments; make them feel that their ideas and – even – confusions are worthwhile

▶ **CONNECT YOUR STUDENTS TO EACH OTHER**

- ✓ set aside a little class time for your students to meet each other and – especially – to exchange contact information in order to develop peer support networks

▶ **SET YOUR STUDENTS ON "FIRE"**

- ✓ share your passion and "stress the beauty, utility, or intrigue of the questions" (Bain, 41) of your discipline in an attempt to stimulate students' deeper investment and engagement in the learning opportunity

▶ **CONNECT YOUR STUDENTS TO CAMPUS SUPPORT SERVICES AND RESOURCES**

- ✓ share, post, and distribute the *Specialized Services for Students* flier so that students are aware of campus support services. Available at the Printing Department and at <http://www.grossmont.edu/faculty-staff/default.aspx>

▶ **IDENTIFY AND OFFER ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO THOSE STUDENTS WHO MAY NEED IT**

- ✓ collect a student information handout from your students which includes – among other things – questions like the following: *What is one thing I can do to help you succeed this semester? What is one thing I should know about you as a student? If you work, how many hours per week? Do you have reliable transportation to campus? Do you have a computer and printer at home?*
- ✓ utilize the *Retention Center* on Blackboard to communicate with students who are absent or miss assignments
- ✓ initiate (non-judgmental) conversations with students not meeting expectations: *"I've noticed that.... Is everything okay?" "Is there something that I can do to help you...?"*

