



Partnerships That Support Academic Success for Hispanic Students with Disabilities

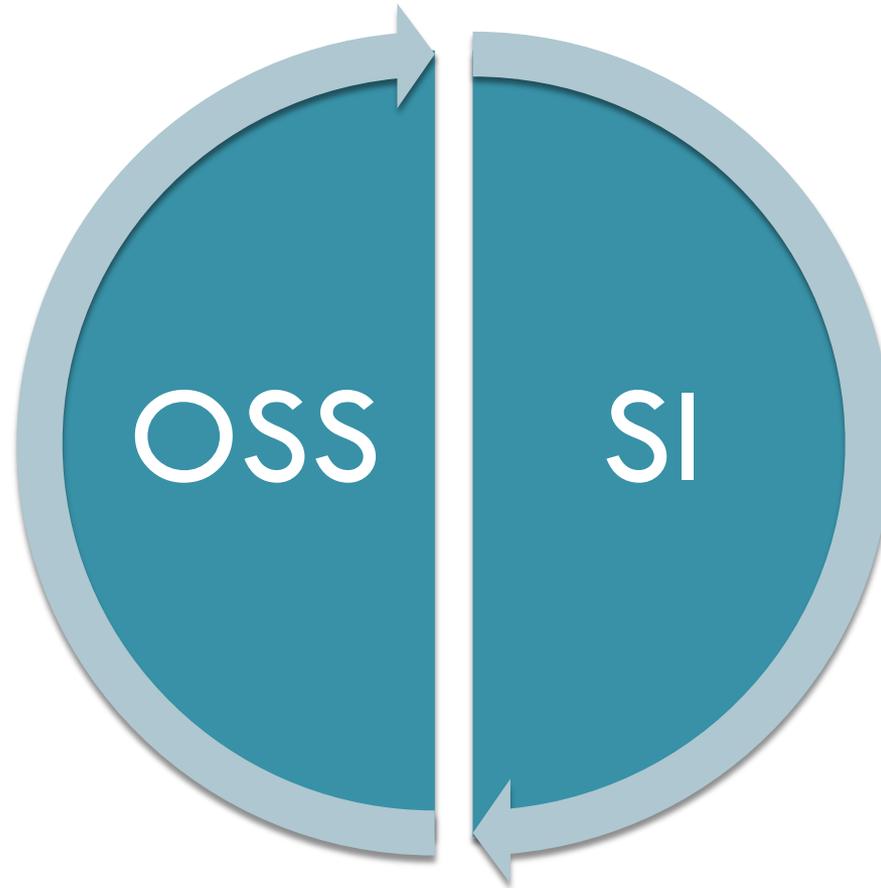
Partnerships-How do they help?

- Partnerships are a powerful means of enriching the service we provide our students.
- Through a common vision and a focus on the same population, partners can develop effective methods to demonstrate important concepts to support student learning and to provide additional resources to our students.

Overview

- ❑ In Fall 2011, the Office of Specialized Services was charged with overseeing Supplemental Instruction.
- ❑ This new collaboration offered an opportunity to centralize services that provide a richly diverse student population with a high quality education in an urban setting.
- ❑ In the NJCU model our efforts are linked to improving access and success through academic support services and program quality.

Centralize Services



Office of Specialized Services

- The mission of the **Office of Specialized Services** is to:
 - Provide equal access for students with disabilities to NJCU's academic programs and activities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act;
 - Provide reasonable accommodations for qualified students; and
 - Maintain an accessible environment for all students with disabilities.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H.W. Bush. **The ADA is one of America's most comprehensive pieces of civil rights legislation that prohibits discrimination and guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in the mainstream of American life -- to enjoy employment opportunities, to purchase goods and services, and to participate in State and local government programs and services.** Modeled after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin – and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 -- the ADA is an "equal opportunity" law for people with disabilities.
- To be protected by the ADA, one must have a disability, **which is defined by the ADA as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment.** The ADA does not specifically name all of the impairments that are covered.

Section 504 of The *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*

- Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* protects the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive federal funds. Section 504 provides that: “No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance . . .” ¹

¹Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 794

What Are Accommodations?



- Techniques and materials that allow individuals with disabilities to complete school or work tasks with greater ease and effectiveness.

Accommodations

□ Classroom/Testing

- Distraction limited test environment
- Extended time (in face to face and online courses for assignments and exams)
- Word processing for essay exams
- Sign language interpreter
- Providing accessible workstations/class materials
- Note taking support:
 - Peer note takers
 - Recording lectures

□ Assistive Technology

- Screen magnification software
 - Zoomtext
- Screen readers
 - JAWS
 - Kurzweil
- Speech recognition software
 - Dragon Naturally Speaking
- Books in alternative format
- CCTV/portable magnifiers
- Assistive listening systems
- Calculator

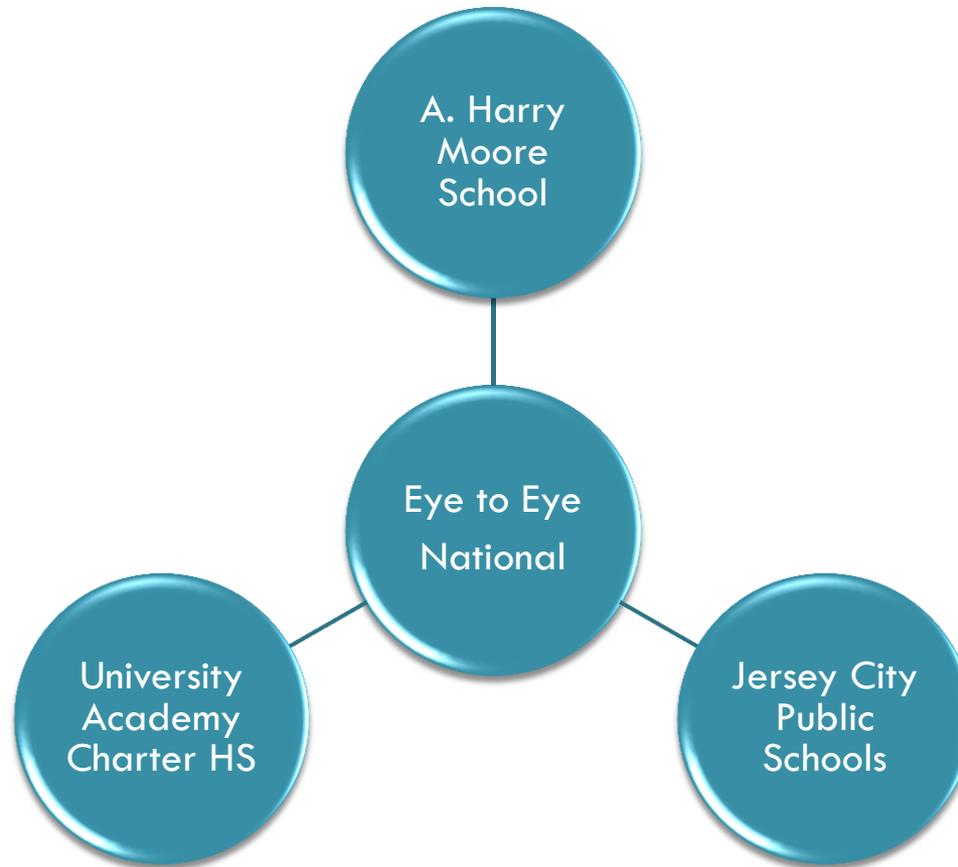
Supplemental Instruction

- The mission of the NJCU Supplemental Instruction Program is to:
 - ▣ Increase student retention and success in historically difficult gateway courses by providing collaborative learning experiences.
 - ▣ The program's goal is to improve student's understanding of course content, foster critical thinking skills and introduce and apply study skills that will support learning beyond the SI session meetings.

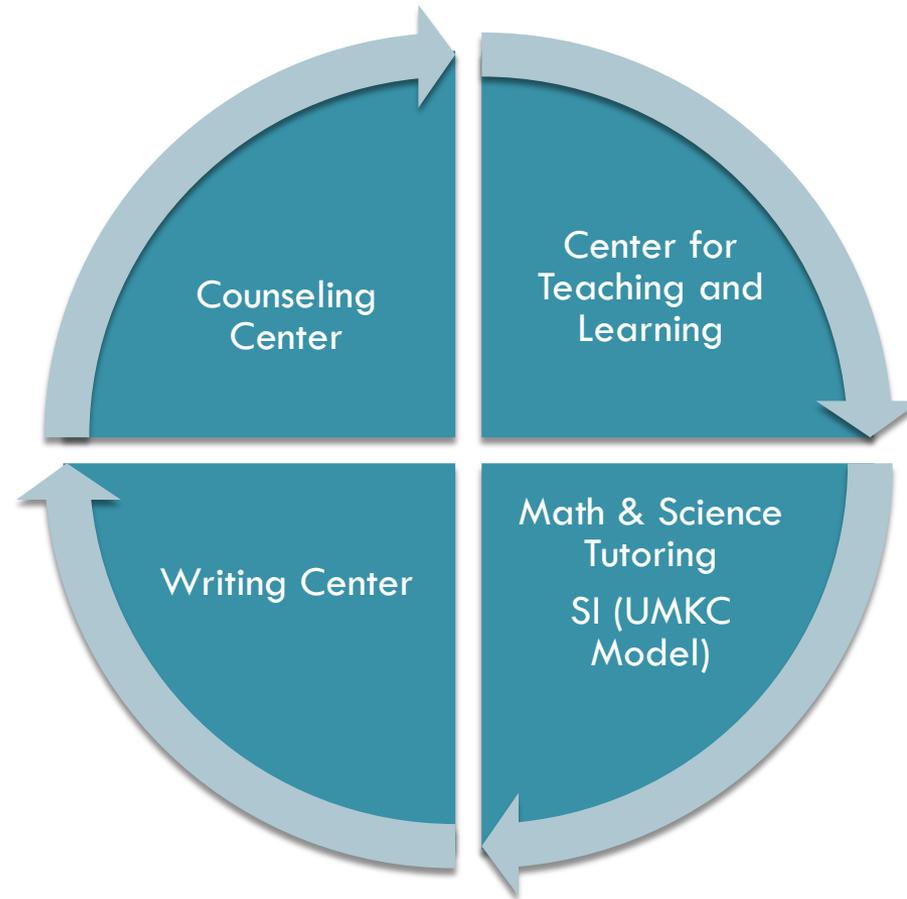
University of Missouri, Kansas City (UMKC) Model

- **Supplemental Instruction (SI)** is an academic assistance program that utilizes peer-assisted study sessions. SI sessions are regularly scheduled, informal review sessions in which students compare notes, discuss readings, develop organizational tools, and predict test items. Students learn how to integrate course content and study skills while working together. The sessions are facilitated by “SI leaders”, students who have previously done well in the course and who attend all class lectures, take notes, and act as model students.
- **SI** is a “free service” offered to all students in a targeted course. SI is a non-remedial approach to learning as the program targets high-risk courses rather than high-risk students. All students are encouraged to attend SI sessions, as it is a voluntary program.

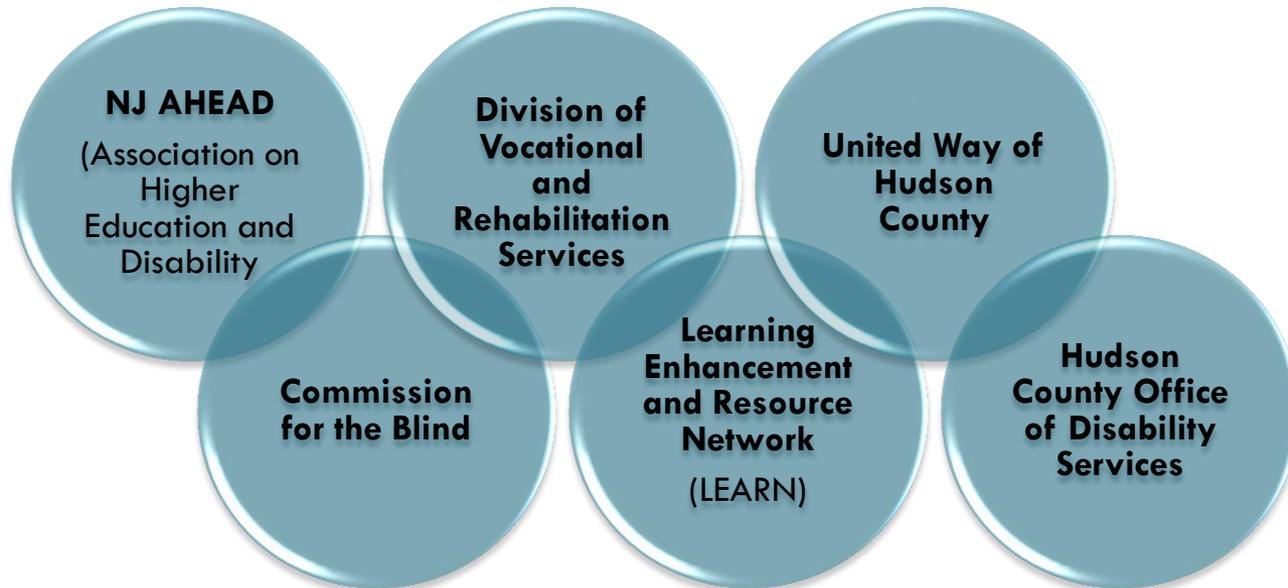
School Partnerships



Campus Partnerships



External Partnerships



Students are talking...

I feel much more prepared to manage the writing tasks I am assigned.

I am returning to school after 14 years and I need a lot of assistance.

The SI sessions helped me to organize the content and prepare for tests.

Everyone learns differently. It's great to have someone explain "it" in layman's terms.



When students collaborate, success follows.

“What’s Gonna Work?”



Create Partnerships That...



- **Ensure Access** ...remember this is everyone's responsibility!
- **Promote Universal Design for Learning**...to address the needs of all learners.
- **Heighten Disability Awareness**...incorporate disability related topics into campus events that celebrate diversity.