



**Abstract – SSS Project BLAST (SSS-STEM)**

Pima Community College is an open-door two-year community college that serves nearly 55,600 students at six campuses throughout Tucson, Arizona. The Desert Vista Campus (PCC-DV) is located in southwest Tucson.

**Students to Be Served.** PCC-DV proposes Project BLAST (Bridge, Launch, Academic Success and Transition), to serve 120 students wishing to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields. At PCC-DV, students in STEM majors have dismal four-year graduation rates (9.7%) and even worse rates of graduation plus transfer to a four-year institution (2.2%). Students in STEM majors face many unique challenges as they pursue a college degree and will benefit from the individualized academic assistance and personal support to be provided by the staff of Project BLAST.

**Services to be Provided and Activities to be Conducted.** Project BLAST will deliver all required and most permissible services. Activities are all focused on increasing student academic achievement and providing students with the skills and knowledge they need to successfully persist to graduation and transfer. Project activities follow a developmental sequence, with each semester of a participant’s experience building upon the skills developed in previous semesters while continuing to provide each participant the level of academic assistance and personalized coaching he or she needs. The table below summarizes Project BLAST’s services and activities:

Required and Permissible Services	Related Activities
Academic Tutoring	Individual and group tutoring
Advising on Course Selection	Individual advising and academic planning
Information on Financial Aid and Assistance in Applying for Aid	Financial aid workshops and assistance completing the FAFSA form
Financial/Economic Literacy	Financial Literacy Workshops
Assistance with Applying for Admission to and Obtaining Financial Aid for Transfer/ Admission to a 4-year Program	Individual and group sessions to complete transfer plans and fill out admissions and financial aid applications
Individualized Counseling for Personal, Career, and Academic Matters	Coaching by Project BLAST personnel
Acquainting Students with Career Options	Strengths assessments, exploration of student’s interests, and individual career plans

**Competitive Preference Priorities Addressed.** This application addresses all four Competitive Preference Priorities (#1a, #1b, #2a and #2b).

**Citation for CPP 1b:** Stephens, N. M., Hamedani, M. G., & Destin, M. (2014). "Closing the social-class achievement gap: A difference- education intervention improves first-generation students’ academic performance and all students’ college transition," *Psychological Science*. [www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/faculty/stephens/htm/docs/StephensHamedaniDestin\\_InPress.pdf](http://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/faculty/stephens/htm/docs/StephensHamedaniDestin_InPress.pdf)

**Citation for CPP 2b:** Bettinger, E. P., & Baker, R., (2011) *Strategies to provide individualized counseling*, "The effects of student coaching in college: An evaluation of a randomized experiment in student mentoring." [http://cepa.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/bettinger\\_baker\\_030711.pdf](http://cepa.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/bettinger_baker_030711.pdf)