

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
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**TO:** Chief Executive Officers  
Chief Instructional Officers  
Chief Student Services Officers  
RP Group  
Senate Presidents

**FROM:** Barry A. Russell, Ph.D.  
Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

**SUBJECT: BASIC SKILLS COMPLETION: THE KEY TO STUDENT SUCCESS IN CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES BY THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES BASIC SKILLS INITIATIVE**

I am very pleased to announce the publication of an online resource, Basic Skills Completion: The Key to Student Success in California Community Colleges by the California Community Colleges Basic Skills Initiative. The information in this resource is the result of over five years of implementation projects throughout California community colleges. You will find information on programs, practices, and projects that have proven to be successful...and have the data to back them up. In addition, there is a section specifically written to assist administrators and researchers of these programs in assuring that processes and resources are available to guarantee success.

Please feel free to distribute this information as widely as possible. It is meant to be a resource document with "just in time" information for those who are working with basic skills students and faculty. Also, we will soon add a section to the website for dissertations that have been recently completed on the subject of basic skills or developmental education.

I want to personally thank Dr. Barbara Illowsky for her guidance on this project. She has worked closely with a team of experts from the field and the resource developed will be of great value for years to come.

I wish you all the best as we all strive to increase student success.