

Connect2Complete: A Conversation with Professor Steve Kinholt

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As a developmental math professor at Green River Community College, Professor Steve Kinholt has always worked to connect students to college resources and services that provide academic and personal support. But, Professor Kinholt explains, “It’s so much better coming from another student.” That’s where Connect2Complete comes in. Now, Professor Kinholt has a Peer Advocate in his classroom two times a week to support students.

As an experienced developmental education instructor, Professor Kinholt knows that the biggest obstacle for students is managing challenges they may face outside of school, particularly for first generation college students. Now in his third quarter of having a Connect2Complete Peer Advocate, Professor Kinholt says, “The biggest advantage of the Peer Advocates is that they’re helping students connect with college and connect with each other. Peer Advocates help students understand what it’s like to be a college student.”

For example, when a student recently asked during class about resources for women’s issues at the college, Professor Kinholt’s Peer Advocate, Danilo, was able to walk the student to the Women’s Programs office after class. Danilo also provides guidance to students regarding college classroom norms, financial aid, and time management, to name a few. The biggest success of Connect2Complete, Professor Kinholt describes, is that “students feel like they’re not alone in the class. They’re connected with other students. They ask about each other. It’s a community we’ve created.” Moving forward, Professor Kinholt hopes to have the support of Peer Advocates in the future: “I would really love having Peer Advocates for the long term. There is a strong commitment to peer advocacy and service-learning on this campus.”



Campus Compact

Connect2Complete, a program of Campus Compact supported by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, works with nine community colleges in Florida, Ohio and Washington to utilize peer mentoring and community-engaged learning as strategies for retention of low-income, developmental education students.