

Civitas / Illume / Inspire – What’s It All About?

You’ve heard of “Civitas” but aren’t really sure what it is. You’ve heard of Illume and Inspire but are confused about what they are, too. Let’s take a minute before diving into how they apply here at Lone Star College to create a common understanding.

Civitas is short for “Civitas Learning,” a company started in 2013 by Charles Thornburgh and Mark Milliron. The company made a name for itself by designing easy to use applications powered by sophisticated data models that deliver predictive analytics. What does this mean in normal people language? Civitas takes a college’s historical data, runs it through very complicated data models and then identifies students who are at risk for not persisting (not likely to re-enroll the following term). Think about it. If you knew a group of current LSC students were likely to NOT register for the fall term, what would you do with this information? That’s what Illume, one of the three applications



we license from Civitas, allows users to explore. The other two applications we license are Inspire-Faculty and Inspire-Advisor. Both focus on how students are doing right NOW in their classes and this information is gathered from Desire2Learn, our online learning management system. Inspire-Faculty looks at student engagement: how often is the student logging into D2L, how many discussion postings have they created, what are their assignment and exam grades? Inspire-Advisor looks at the same activities but instead of looking at engagement, it makes predictions about the students’ persistence. Both of these applications allow faculty and advisors to reach out and “nudge” students to improve their engagement/persistence.

Lone Star College launched Illume a year ago with about 40 people trained to use it. Since then, the number of people with access has doubled and we are now seeing college student success groups use it to help inform intervention strategies. LSC-Montgomery is one such campus and recently Dr. Michael Chavez (VP Student Success), Deirdre Hayes-Cootz (director, Extended Learning Center) and Erma Walker (counselor) presented their work to the Chancellor’s Cabinet. The initiative began with Dr. Chavez using Illume to identify students at Montgomery with low and very low persistence prediction scores. He passed the list of students off to Deirdre, Erma and the Student Success team who crafted an intervention strategy just for those students, requesting an in-person meeting to apprise them of tutoring and other support services. Although it’s still too early to tell, initial feedback from counselors is positive. Students reacted to the nudges! The team will look at the students’ spring grades and fall enrollments to see if the intervention had an impact and then tweak what they did for the fall.



Inspire-Faculty and Inspire-Advisor are currently in pilot mode. The Inspire-Faculty group is a cross-section of full-time and adjunct faculty, some teaching online and some teaching hybrid or face-to-face classes, with a dozen disciplines represented. The common denominator is that they all use D2L to track grades. Despite initial data issues, faculty using the application are extremely enthusiastic about the impact their nudges are having on students and the possibilities Inspire-Faculty offers. The Inspire-Advisor pilot is currently comprised of LSC-Online advisors, under the leadership of Dr. Wendi Prater and Director Vincent Nguyen. They too are reporting promising results with students. There are plans to expand use of Inspire-Faculty and Inspire-Advisor to all faculty and all advisors over the next year. Watch for upcoming articles on the Inspire pilots for more detailed information.

Illume Open Labs

In the meantime, have we peaked your interest in Illume? If yes, then join other "Illuminati" (the Marvel comics-type, not the Bavarians) who would like to explore hypotheses about student persistence using Illume. Beginning this month, AIR will host monthly open labs rotating across the colleges to assist faculty and staff in using Illume to explore questions about student persistence. Our goal is to 1) introduce the system to new users and 2) use Illume to explore factors ("predictors") that impact student persistence, ultimately leading to action on these insights.

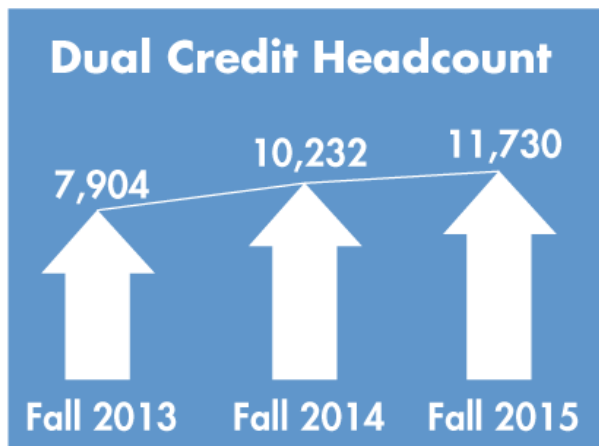
You are invited to attend any open lab session at a college convenient for you. See you there!

College	Date	Time	Building/Room
LSC-North Harris	Friday, April 22	9 a.m. - 12 noon	ACAD 207
LSC-Tomball	Wednesday, May 18	1 - 4 p.m.	E255
LSC-University Park	Wednesday, June 22	9 a.m. - 12 noon	13-834A
LSC-CyFair	Wednesday, July 20	1 - 4 p.m.	TECH 110
LSC-Kingwood	Thursday, August 25	9 a.m. - 12 noon	HSB 117
LSC-Montgomery	Tuesday, September 20	1 - 4 p.m.	MC-B B108
LSC-North Harris	Thursday, October 20	9 a.m. - 12 noon	ACAD 207
LSC-Tomball	Tuesday, November 15	1 - 4 p.m.	E255
LSC-University Park	Thursday, December 8	9 a.m. - 12 noon	13-834A

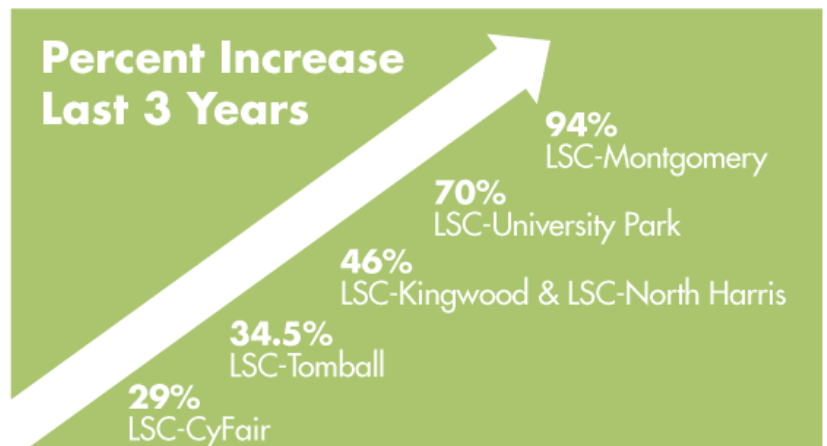
Did You Know? Dual-Credit is Growing!

Are Dual Credit students more successful than their peers who have never taken Dual Credit courses prior to attending Lone Star College? **YES!** We know through recent research that entering students who completed Dual Credit courses prior to enrollment at Lone Star College had significantly higher rates of successful completion (88%) compared to the entire First Time in College cohort (74%).

Dual Credit is growing! From Fall 2013 to Fall 2015, Lone Star College has seen a 48% increase in the number of Dual Credit students attending area high schools and taking courses at the colleges and centers and online. LSC-Montgomery, alone, has almost doubled the size of its Dual Credit population since 2013!



Dual Credit Headcount (per Fast Facts)



Need data? Visit the [Service Center](#).