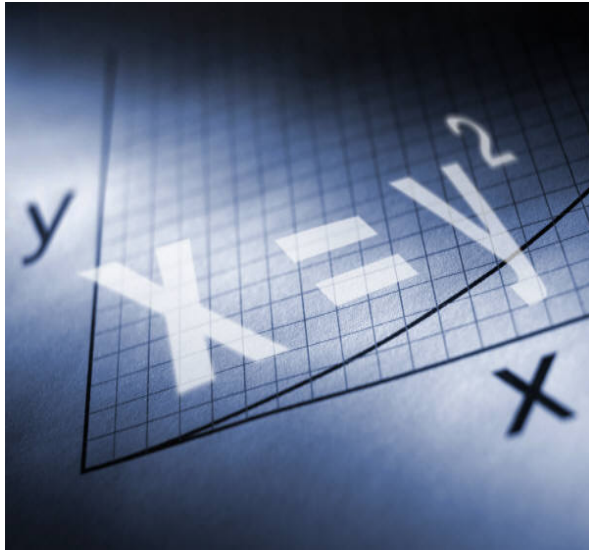


# Elementary Algebra Focus Groups Say...

(From students in an Elementary Algebra class on February 1, 2008 at Pulaski Technical College .)



## The barriers to student persistence and success are (in rank order):

1. Registration lines.
2. Difficulty remembering algebra rules.
3. Can't use calculator.
4. Time to study with family responsibilities.
5. Trouble establishing priorities and goals.
6. Lack of career and academic advising.
7. Returning to school after a period of time.
8. Day care (more financial assistance).
9. Don't have computers at home.
10. Certain instructors don't teach.
11. Lack of information on how to get things done.
12. Attendance policies, make-up work.
13. Typing skills.
14. Staff/faculty help.
15. Change of instructors during the semester.

## Pulaski Tech can improve student persistence and success by offering (in rank order):

1. Additional staff (within budget).
2. Workshops in study skills.
3. Align with what high schools are doing and provide review of basic math skills.
4. Teach time management.
5. Help students learn how to identify priorities and goals.
6. Have a school newspaper and advertise advising and career center.
7. Better flow of information for financial aid, COMPASS.
8. Provide more financial aid. Day care facility on campus with extended hours.
9. Give computers to each student. Make students aware that they will have outside lab time. Advise.
10. Allow instructor evaluation at any time.
11. Checklist.
12. More flexibility, uniform policies.
13. Advising, keyboarding workshop, assess keyboarding skills.
14. Accessible instructors who answer phones and have longer office hours. My ptcportal workshop, student email.
15. Reaction time by administration.

## Pulaski Tech provides effective support to students by providing (in rank order):

1. Helpful staff members.
2. College Seminar.
3. Small classes with good teachers who do not talk above students' heads.
4. College Seminar.
5. College Seminar.
6. SOAR and have advising center.
7. Flexible class schedule, online classes.
8. Career Pathways
9. Certain instructors set up computer lab time in class.
10. Some (instructors) are better than others.
11. Information is available.
12. Talk to instructors, some are supportive, flexible.
13. Keyboarding classes, some let others type paper.
14. Some instructors are helpful.
15. Instructors will encourage.

*The focus groups' opinions of the knowledge students need to have and the action strategies students can implement to improve success are listed in the "Elementary Algebra Focus Group Results" document available on the PTC Achieving the Dream web site.*