

# Data Brief



January 2013

*Danville Area Community College*

Volume 2, Issue 2

## Dual Credit College Express

College Express is an initiative that began in Fall 2005 as a cooperative Career and Technical Education opportunity for Vermilion County 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders as a result of the local area vocational center, formerly known as VOTEC (Vermilion Occupational Technical Education Center), closing its' doors. At that time, DACC and VVEDS (Vermilion Vocational Education Delivery System) collaborated to offer high school juniors and seniors dual credit career and technical education classes on the DACC campus. Although originally known as the Step Ahead program, the name was changed to College Express shortly after inception.

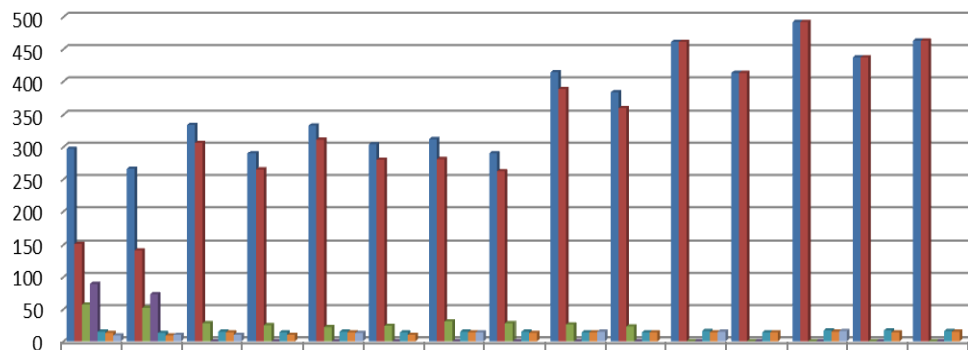
Nine county high schools participated that first fall with 297 students enrolled in a total of thirteen courses. Currently the average fall enrollment stands at 450 students, with students from fifteen high schools enrolling in a variety of sixteen courses.

As a reflection of our local market and manufacturing community, an Industrial Technology course has recently been added. Community members, DACC faculty, College Express students and VVEDS staff hosted 650 students this past fall for the first "Manufacturing Day."

There is a portion of time when students' calendars have additional days referred to as "Extra Days." During that time frame juniors receive one hour college credit for Foundations in Personal Finance (INST 118) and seniors receive credit for Success in College (INST 101).

College Express is a great transition program that prepares high school students for the college experience with some safeguards in place. The opportunity to obtain cost-free college credit is a true benefit as well as the opportunity to make new friends by attending classes with students from other area high schools. It is estimated that at least 60-70% of the College Express students continue their college experience at DACC after graduating from high school.

**VVEDS College Express FY06-FY13**



|              |        |                             |                               |                   |                    |           |
|--------------|--------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| ■ Enrollment | ■ DACC | ■ North County (RHS & HAHS) | ■ VEC (Auto Body & Auto Mech) | ■ Offered Courses | ■ Courses w Enroll | ■ Schools |
|--------------|--------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|

■ Enrollment ■ DACC ■ North County (RHS & HAHS) ■ VEC (Auto Body & Auto Mech) ■ Offered Courses ■ Courses w Enroll ■ Schools



## Dual Credit Pays!

The Financial Benefits of Dual Credit Programs for Danville Area Community College District #507 Residents in FY 2012:

- With Dual Credit (at DACC and at the high schools) and College Express, our FY 2012 collaborations invested \$ **932,150** of college credit in our high school students. What a savings to the students and their parents!

### Snapshot of Dual Credit History

(FY 12 includes Summer 2011, Fall 2011, and Spring 2012)

|                | Total Credit Hours | Unduplicated Headcount | Number of Courses Taken | Courses Taught at DACC | Courses Taught at High School | College Express (=VOTEC in FY '05) | Traditional Dual Credit |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>FY 2012</b> | 5492               | 814                    | 2096                    | 82%                    | 18%                           | 70%                                | 30%                     |
| <b>FY 2011</b> | 6039               | 817                    | 2205                    | 75%                    | 25%                           | 56%                                | 44%                     |
| <b>FY 2008</b> | 4443               | 720                    | 1504                    | 64%                    | 36%                           | 48%                                | 53%                     |
| <b>FY 2005</b> | 3076               | 403                    | 1288                    | 17%                    | 83%                           | 16%                                | 84%                     |

### DACC Middle College

Middle College at DACC is a high school completion program designed for Vermilion County high school juniors and seniors, with a history of academic success, who may have run into barriers to high school completion and are at-risk of dropping out.

The goal of Middle College is to support the development of strong, successful students who are actively engaged in their studies in order to improve graduation rates in Vermilion County. Students accepted into Middle College take classes on-campus at Danville Area Community College instead of at the high school. Much like a 'regular' college student, each student in Middle College is registered for classes that meet his or her own graduation requirements. Classes may be a combined mix of developmental, online, credit recovery and/ or college level classes. Students are required to be involved in a minimum of five hours of learning each school day and must attend the daily Core Class as a cohort. Additionally, each Middle College student is assigned a Case Manager who works side-by-side with the student to overcome barriers.

Students who are recommended for the program must have the consent of his or her home high school. Once a Middle College student completes requirements for graduation per his or her home high school, they will become a graduate of that school. If a student completes college level coursework

as part of Middle College, the credit counts as both high school and college credit and is part of the student's academic transcript at Danville Area Community College.

The DACC Middle College program was built as a partnership with the support of the Vermilion Healthcare Foundation, High School Administrators, Regional Superintendent, Vermilion Advantage and Danville Area Community College.

To date, more than seventy students have been enrolled. Thirty-one of those students have completed high school graduation requirements (21 Middle College graduates/6 GED completers/4 High School graduates). Ninety percent of the students have either completed or are currently still engaged in education rather than dropping out of high school. Additionally, seventy-one students have taken summer credit recovery classes (about 50% of these students are not Middle College students but other county high school students who needed to make up credits in order to graduate).

The success of this program can be attributed to several factors; chiefly being there are caring adults in the students' lives who don't believe failure is an option and who are willing to work outside of boxes and as a team to find practical solutions. The team consists of a director, program coordinator, two case managers, core class teacher, credit-recovery lab monitor and other DACC faculty and staff.