

## Excerpts regarding the Persistence Project

The Persistence Project is a faculty-initiated project at Oakton Community College that was suggested by our ATD coach. The project strives to increase student engagement both in the classroom and with the institution. Increased engagement will increase persistence across all racial groups. Project participants agree to implement measures to increase student engagement, especially in the first three weeks of the semester. One innovative measure that transforms relationships with students is a 15-minute one-to-one conference with every student during the first three weeks. Last year's fall-to-spring persistence statistics indicate that students who take one class in the project have a 13 percent higher persistence rate than other students. Persistence increased for all racial groups, with the increase greatest for black students.