

Dear Colleagues:

Happy New Year and welcome to spring semester 2016! I am writing today to bring your attention to an important campus resource for students – the Excel Centers. Students can come to the centers to study, to use the computers, or even for the coffee or to eat their lunches, and when they have a question, the Excel tutors are ready to help. **Once students come in to the centers, they are much more likely to come back, and students who come regularly derive great benefits.**

Why should your students use the Excel Centers?

- The five Excel Centers—Communication Center, Languages and Social Sciences Center, Mathematics Center, Science Center, and Writing Center—work with all students in all majors, all Colleges, and all levels – they are not just for freshman
- **There is a direct correlation between success and use of the Excel Centers. Students who use the Excel Centers earn higher grades and have substantially greater retention.**
- Using the Excel Centers gives your students a chance to practice what they are learning in your courses in a collaborative and active learning environment.
- The Excel Centers aren't a place for students to go to be fixed or to re-learn material they may have missed in class. The Excel Centers are places to go for enrichment, collaborative academic discussions, and active problem-solving—places that give students an opportunity to practice and apply what they are learning in your class so that they'll feel more confident and enthusiastic about what they are learning.
- The Excel Centers provide a safe space to develop and enhance critical thinking skills to do well in even the most difficult classes.
- The Excel Centers offer a variety of academic support, including class specific problem-solving sessions, individual and group problem-solving sessions, review sessions, in-class workshops for writing and communication, computer technologies, and a variety of other services targeted towards student and faculty needs.
- The Excel Center directors are happy to collaborate with departments and classes on programming ideas to enhance student performance.

If you have questions or want to talk further about how your students can benefit from using the Excel Centers, please contact:

Communication Center, Director: Dr. Erica Allgood, 255-4771, eallgood@uccs.edu
Languages and Social Sciences Center, Interim Director: Sandy Ho, 255-3691, sho@uccs.edu
Mathematics Center, Director: Dr. Jenny Dorrington, 255-3129, jdorrington@uccs.edu
Science Center, Director: Dr. Jerry Phillips, 255-3649, jphillip@uccs.edu
Writing Center, Interim Director: Kacey Ross, 255-4335, kross2@uccs.edu

Thank you. I appreciate your support for students.