



Richard J. Daley College

One of the City Colleges of Chicago

Daley College Wins National Award

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Chicago... Inspired by Plato's *Republic*, the Keystone Project at Richard J. Daley College has won the national award for Exemplary Initiatives in Student Learning from the National Council of Instructional Administrators (NCIA). The award will be presented to college faculty and administrators at the national convention of the American Association of Community Colleges in Nashville, Tennessee, on April 8. The award is the top honor conferred by the National Council of Instructional Administrators for innovation in classroom instruction. Daley College is one of the seven City Colleges of Chicago.

The Keystone Project is an innovative program to improve the teaching of mathematics. Developed by Dr. Vali Siadat, Professor of Mathematics and Chairman of the Mathematics Department at Daley College and Dr. Yoram Sagher, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Illinois at Chicago, the project is rooted in a short passage from *The Republic*:

Have you noticed...how people with a talent for calculation are naturally quick at learning almost any other subject; and how training in [mathematics] makes a slow mind quicker?

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Using a combination of psychology, technology, and responsive/adaptive teaching, the Keystone Project has dramatically improved student retention and success in introductory and college algebra classes. Results include a passing rate more than doubled for that for students taught by traditional methods. Longer term studies suggest that Keystone students also improve their ability to concentrate. Students taking these special classes show a 12% increase in reading comprehension scores.

Still in the research phase, the Keystone Project is funded by the Gabriella and Paul Rosenbaum Foundation, which supports innovations in mathematics research and teaching in projects throughout the nation. "We are delighted by the accomplishment this award represents," said Madge Goldman, foundation president. "The Rosenbaum Foundation is deeply committed to results-oriented education, and we are especially proud of this project."

Richard J. Daley College, one of the seven City Colleges of Chicago, is located on Chicago's Southwest Side at 7500 South Pulaski Avenue. The college enrolls 11,000 students each term in a range of programs including a two year college curriculum, an adult education curriculum for adults who have not completed high school, and a continuing education offerings, and workforce development programs operated in cooperation with local businesses and industries. A top-rated honors program transfers students to the University of Illinois and other baccalaureate-granting institutions. Specialized programs at Daley prepare students for careers in science, mathematics, and engineering, and include summer institutes for gifted high school students.

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