Fostering Strategic Learning in Postsecondary Mathematics and Mathematics-Based Courses

Taylor W. Acee, Ph.D.
Developmental Education Department, Texas State University

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Abstract: Students' skill, will, self-regulation, and the academic environment are four key areas that interact to influence students’ overall success in college and in mathematics courses specifically. Although students may experience various academic and nonacademic environmental factors that are outside of their direct control, all students have the power to use their skill, will, and self-regulation to improve their likelihood of success. In addition, educators have the power to facilitate students’ skill, will, and self-regulation by creating learning environments that are supportive and conducive to learning. In this presentation, I will review the Model of Strategic Learning, present data from a series of studies showing how various factors within this model relate to student success in mathematics and mathematics-based courses, and highlight interventions and practical strategies that could be used to help improve students’ skill, will, and self-regulation.

Dr. Taylor W. Acee is Associate Professor in the Graduate Program in Developmental Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Texas State University. He earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in educational psychology at The University of Texas and his B.S. in psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. His program of research is focused on cognitive, metacognitive, motivational, and affective factors that contribute to and detract from student success in postsecondary education. In his research, Dr. Acee targets variables that are causative, account for a meaningful amount of the variation in student success, and are amendable to change through educational intervention. He is internationally known for his collaborative work on personal relevance interventions, academic boredom, and strategic learning assessments and interventions. His research activities have resulted in 29 refereed publications, 5 funded research grants totaling over $800,000; and various other scholarly activities. In his spare time, he writes music.