In 2013, the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 1720, which transformed Developmental Education across the state by requiring colleges to redesign DevEd programs that would expedite a student’s arrival in gateway courses using modularized, compressed, contextualized, and/or co-requisite structures. The bill also defined all Florida high school graduates as college ready and made developmental courses in reading, writing and math optional.

In order to fulfill the mandate for developmental courses in reading and writing, the School of Humanities and Communication designed the English Studio (ENC0055L), which is based on a contextualized learning environment that was originally designed for underprepared students at universities and colleges that do not offer traditional developmental education courses. The studio model is flexible and can be easily adapted to a particular college’s student population and available resources. The Studio at DSC is a weekly one-hour guided lab designed to help ENC1101 students navigate course requirements, build critical thinking skills, and complete complex writing and reading assignments.

Since the Studio’s implementation in the Fall of 2014, Daytona State has been recognized as a leader in DevEd reform for successfully reducing the time and resources it takes for students to successfully complete ENC1101 while maintaining overall FTE success in ENC1101. The collaborative effort between The School of Humanities and Communication and Writing Specialists in the Academic Support Center and Writing Center provides essential support to ENC1101 students at minimal financial cost.

Elizabeth Barnes, Faculty in the School of Humanities and Communication and Interim Director of the Writing Center/Chair of Academic Support, and Dana Davidson, Senior Learning Specialist in the Academic Support Center, were invited to talk about the Studio at the Florida Division of Colleges Connections Conference in May 2015 and were recognized as Learning Resources Commission Exemplary Practice Recipients at the Association of Florida Colleges Annual Conference in November 2015. The Studio was also chosen for one of eight case studies published by Jobs for the Future (a national non-profit which works to increase college readiness and career success) titled Innovations in Developmental Education Redesign.