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College of Education Department of Counselor Education Announcement of Dissertation Defense

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Dissertation Title: The Effect of the Student Success Skills Small Group Counseling Intervention on Factors Associated with Dropout Potential in High School

ABSTRACT

The focus of this study is to add to the outcome research on effective school counseling interventions and to specifically evaluate the effectiveness of the Student Success Skills (SSS) small group intervention (Brigman, Campbell, & Webb, 2007) with students identified as having drop out potential in the ninth grade. This study analyzed two years of pre-existing, non-identifiable student data ($N = 167$) collected by school counselors at one high school in South Florida. An Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA) was used to determine differences in academic grades, standardized test scores, and absences between the students who did participate in the SSS small group intervention when compared to those students who did not participate. Statistically significant differences were found between groups in all three dropout potential factors (GPA, test scores, and absences) supporting the use of SSS small group school counseling intervention with students at risk for dropping out. Effect size estimates were reported for each of the measures.