



February 2022

Dear SI Community of the Borough of Manhattan Community College:

As former executive director and current SI associate and SI Certified Trainer with *The International Center for Supplemental Instruction at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (ICSI)*, I commend your dedication to student success, and am excited to see the commitment with which you are implementing Supplemental Instruction.

At the time of this letter, the ICSI and a team of Certified Trainers around the globe are in preparation for our conference in Toronto (June 2022) designed for both student leaders and professional staff: **The Golden Age of SI: Celebrate 50 Years of SI with Us**. Fifty years of this amazing model! Fifty years of documenting best practices and measuring effectiveness; fifty years of research and dissemination through world-class training practices; fifty years of well-trained SI supervisors in thousands of institutions globally providing training, mentorship, and support to collectively multiple thousands of SI Leaders; and, ultimately, 50 years of each SI Leader positively impacting the lives of countless students around the world!

Undoubtedly, many of you are familiar with the originating story of SI:

SI was developed at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) in 1973 by a graduate student in the School of Education named Deanna Martin. Ms. Martin, later Dr. Martin, was approached by UMKC's Provost to address retention concerns that the university had experienced over the prior ten years when moving from a private to public institution. The model, now known as Supplemental Instruction, consisted of peer-led study sessions facilitated to engage students with one another. The methodology of SI is grounded in theories of behavioral learning, cognitive development, social interdependence, and interpretive critical theory. What worked to improve retention at UMKC in 1973 was subsequently recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as an Exemplary Program. (SI Supervisor Training Manual, ICSI, 2019).

Throughout these past 50 years, SI has been disseminated worldwide with a record of proven success across a variety of institution types and educational cultures—four-year or two-year, public or private, urban or suburban—and across a variety of course content. Beyond its effectiveness across institutions and courses, SI has proven effective for students from various cultures and experiences, both in the United States and in at least 34 countries around the globe.

When the core principles of SI are implemented, the student experience is positively impacted. And while the fundamental elements are essential, one of the amazing aspects of SI's history is that the practices are strengthened over time through innovation. In this way, SI's history is written by all of us.

Comprised of domestic and international faculty and students from 155 countries who speak over 110 languages, the BMCC culture, in many ways, represents the culture of SI around the world. The mission of SI aligns wonderfully with the BMCC mission as "a vibrant, pluralistic learning community committed to the intellectual and personal growth of students." We at The International Center look forward to seeing how BMCC continues to shape the future of SI—what you will learn and what you will contribute to the larger SI community to which you belong.

Sincerely,

Julie Collins

The International Center for Supplemental Instruction
University of Missouri-Kansas City