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Arıkan studied mathematics at Boğaziçi University, İstanbul and received her BS in 1979. She earned her PhD in Mathematics from Middle East Technical University, Ankara in 1988. Between 1980 and 1999, she taught at Middle East Technical University. She was in residence at Purdue University, USA between November 1988 and September 1989. She worked as a visiting professor at University of New Hampshire between September 1989 and August 1990, Harvard University (Summer Programs - The Kennedy School of Government) in USA in the summers of 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992 and was a visiting professor at University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain from February 1996 till May 1998. She had been the General Secretary of the Turkish Mathematical Society between 2007 and 2009. She founded the Academic Support Program at Sabancı University in 1999. She teaches at Sabancı University and has been the Coordinator of Academic Support Program since then.



Building up a Learning Community: The Academic Support Program

Abstract

This paper articulates on the Academic Support Program at Sabancı University. The program forms a linkage between quality teaching and learning outcomes and is implemented as a part of a wider student support system: Center for Individual and Academic Development. The program as well as the system differs considerable from existing student support systems. The Center has a self-regulating place in the total organization scheme of the university and the Academic Support Program is exclusive in terms of its aim, structure and modes of function. The Program is centralized around and framed by the principle of “**learning to learn**”, captures the basis for various “**active learning**” methods and emphasizes student involvement through engagement in management at each organizational level. The paper includes the administrative structure, the landmarks of the model and early qualitative and quantitative analysis that reveal student accomplishment as well as the development of learning community.