Two Strategies for Student Retention

In an effort to retain students in my English V02 classes, I've used the following strategies this semester.  First, I've conferenced with every student individually about their first formal essay.  During this meeting, the student and I discuss necessary grammar remediation, writing issues, career goals (as they relate to reading and writing), and plans for improvement.  This meeting helps to develop a positive student/instructor relationship, and assists students in reflecting on their goals for higher education.  This is often the first time a student has talked with me individually.  I work during this meeting to increase the student's feeling of connection and relevancy to both the subject matter and the campus.

Another way I've worked to retain students is by making a visit to the Reading/Writing Center, the SI pull-out session, or the Writing Lab mandatory before students can re-write their essays.  This requirement has forced students to discover academic services at VC that they might have been unaware of.  The act of re-writing an essay by itself helps students reflect on their abilities.  Re-writing with the help of a tutor can further expand a student's understanding of their writing troubles.