Collaboration: Leveraging Relationships for Effectiveness On and Off Campus

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The Tools of the Compact

• Fiscal Responsibility
  – Allocating resources toward priorities

• Assessment
  – Measuring outcomes

• Collaboration
  – Working together to meet common goals
Collaboration

• Collaboration within the Compact

• Internal & External Efforts

• Collaboration and the Focal Areas

• Discussion
Collaboration & The Compact

• The Commission is asking institutions to employ collaboration both within the institution across departments and functions, and beyond their institution with other community stakeholders to maximize resources, reduce duplication, and approach problems in a holistic way.
The Need for Collaboration

• Why it’s important
  – Critical for supporting our most at-risk students
  – Results in better outcomes for institutions and communities
  – Maximizes resources
  – Stakeholders value partnerships & efficiencies
Challenges to Collaboration

• Communicating the need for additional support
• Territorialism – “Our problem to solve”
• Conflicting goals & ideas
• Technical complexity
• Not enough participation
• Lack of flexibility in adjusting to problems
• Personalities
Effective Collaboration

- Sustained collaboration is difficult and involves:
  - Adoption of shared goals
  - Reliance of partners to complete tasks
  - Development of shared norms and processes to accomplish goals

- Kezar & Lester, 2009
Internal Collaboration

• Developing teams to support focal areas
• Sharing information & using data to identify problems
• Support targeted programs through interdepartmental relationships
• Encouraging the growth of curricular and co-curricular partnerships
Internal (Con’t)

• Specific challenges seen as the responsibility of one department or division
• Challenges are complex and need participation from multiple offices
  – Preventing/managing loan default (fin. aid)
  – Alumni work participation/earnings (alumni office)
  – Academic deficiencies (admissions)
External Collaboration

• How can we leverage external relationships to help meet institutional and compact goals?
  – K-12
  – Alumni & parents
  – Local & regional businesses
  – Government offices
  – Nonprofit organizations (Access providers)
  – Foundations & Philanthropies
Collaboration & Access

• Partner with businesses and nonprofits
  – Nontraditional student college-going assistance
  – Connect students with external support programs

• Provide outreach to local K-12 schools
  – Academic support
  – College-going assistance
  – Financial literacy
Collaboration & Success

- Develop an At-risk Student Taskforce
  - Create a shared early warning system
  - Interdepartmental team addresses specific student needs

- Academic Competencies Team
  - Integrate competencies throughout student affairs programming
  - Connect competencies to specific careers and paraprofessional competencies
Collaboration & *Impact*

- **Support ongoing local health initiative**
  - Students trained to educate residents
  - Faculty assist with research support
  - Institution provides meeting facilities

- **STEM Awareness Coalition**
  - Institution takes the lead in developing a regional partnership to encourage STEM education and job creation
  - Connects students with local employers
Collaboration Across all Three Areas
Reporting on Collaboration

• We want to know how collaboration informs the development and implementation of strategies and plans

• Whose working together and why?
• Are the partnerships effective?
• What needs to change?
Discussion

• Where are partnerships working?

• Are there ways we can collaborate between institutions?

• What additional support can the Commission provide?
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