

# **Institutional Promising Practices in Completion: WVU's University College and Mountaineer Success Academy**

**Elizabeth A. Dooley, Ed.D.**

Associate Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs &  
Dean, University College

**Bernadette M.E. Jungblut, Ph.D.**

University Assessment Officer &  
Executive Director, Academic Success Initiatives



# Recognizing the Need for Change

- Understand expectations
- Accept what the data say
- Acknowledge anecdotal accounts of the present and the past
- Listen to all voices



# The Culture

- Hear the perspectives of others
  - Real or perceived
  - Thoughts
  - Experiences
  - Expectations
- Assess the message and the messenger

*“In a climate of change many come forward....  
Stand up to be counted.”*



# Cultural Readiness

- Environmental scan
  - Local – university level
  - State
  - National
- Receptivity of stakeholders
  - Are we a re-invention of the past?



# Organizing for Change

- Key Leaders
  - Who are they?
  - What is their role?
  - Analyze their potential impact and level of contribution
- Evidence
  - Accept what the data say
  - Acknowledge anecdotal accounts of the present and the past
  - Listen with your heart
  - Find and know your passion



# Garnering Support to Change

- Recognize and understand governance structures
  - Board of Governors
  - Administrators (Academic Affairs & Student Affairs)
    - Deans
    - Associate and Assistant Deans and Directors
- Key Stakeholders



# The West Virginia University University College

## Goal 1

---

- Instill high expectations for personal academic achievement in our students along with the skills, experience, and confidence to succeed.

## Goal 2

---

- Empower students to develop personal and academic goals.

## Goal 3

---

- Promote undergraduate student access, learning, persistence, and success.



# The West Virginia University University College

## Goal 4

---

- Establish partnerships within the university community that promote a supportive academic learning environment for all students.

## Goal 5

---

- Develop strong partnerships with degree-granting programs and departments to facilitate the transition from the University College to majors.

## Goal 6

---

- Assist students in identifying complementary majors and career goals.



# A Culture of Care

- Effective academic integration
- Effective and responsible social engagement
- Seamless transitions
  - High school to University College
  - University College to academic major
  - Academic major to UC – readjustment period



# Mountaineer Success Academy

- First-time freshmen
  - Undecided/exploratory
  - Not directly admitted to first-choice major
  - Lower high school GPAs and SAT/ACT scores
- Programming
  - Summer bridge and first-year experience
  - New Student Orientation experience
  - Week One – instructors who collaborate with program staff
  - Enhanced first-year seminar (FYS)
  - Success coaches who collaborate with FYS instructors
  - Assigned advisors who collaborate with program staff
  - Major and career exploration opportunities



# Mountaineer Success Academy Metrics

- Week One participation
- Credit hours completed/attempted
- First semester GPA
- First semester probation rate
- Fall-to-spring retention
- Fall-to-fall retention
- Others – e.g., transition to majors



# Questions? Suggestions?

[Elizabeth.Dooley@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Dooley@mail.wvu.edu)

304.293.2641

[Bernadette.Jungblut@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Bernadette.Jungblut@mail.wvu.edu)

304.293.9245

