## GRADUATION IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

# In the midst of a recession education remained a huge advantage



# The advantages of parents' education are transferred to their children



Source: Chronicle of Higher Education, August 27, 1999

**Educational Level of Parents** 

# OUR CHALLENGES

- LOW GRADUATION RATE
- TOO MUCH TIME TO A DEGREE
- EXCESS HOURS
- HIGH COSTS
- TOO MUCH DEBT

## Institutions Have a Large Effect on Graduation Rates\*



#### **First to Second Year Retention**

 2011-IPEDS retention and graduation rates for public universities with an entering class >200, n=525

# Similar institutions can differ in student success



\*Eleven West Virginia Institutions compared to 46 other public Institutions, based on SAT/ACT, % Pell, % URM, High School gpa, Size, Expenditures, and Setting. 6 Why are Attrition Rates High and Graduation Rates Low?

## Lack of Policy Focus or Attention:

- Almost all states funded enrollment or student credit hours in the past; even today performance funding is often a small percentage of the budget.
- Rankings either do not include graduation rates or give them little weight.
- Focusing on Retention/Graduation has not been part of our culture.

## Why Students SAY They're Withdrawing

"I'm going surfing in California."

"My sister is going to

have a baby

and I want to get to know

"I need to go back

to my high school;

I had a lot more friends

there."

my nephew."

"I want to follow my boyfriend; he is going to a Christian college in Texas and we want to live together."

"You aren't Green enough."



"I am in debt and am going to Alaska to prospect for gold."

## Three Critical Elements of a Retention/Graduation Program (Creating a Culture of Success)

- 1. An individual, by status or personality, must drive the process and have access to human and financial resources.
- 2. A process based on **detailed data** must be established and **maintained for at least five years.**
- 3. There must be a team of individuals from across campus committed to student success who meet **weekly** to assess progress.



We established a cross-campus team to dig into the data, identify opportunities, shape strategies and actions, and assess results.

- Understand the myriad pathways that students follow as they move through the institution and determine where their progress stalled
- Define what the university had the power to change or do differently for its students
- Shape the strategies and actions they would take to help students; and
- Continually **monitor and refine** their efforts.

## **Cross-Campus Success Team**

#### Chief Academic Officer convenes the group and participates

#### Supported by Institutional Research

#### Core Services:

admissions, registration, financial aid, career services, housing, health center, institutional research, and withdrawal services

Support Programs: orientation, advising and coaching, tutoring and study skills courses, and special programs for underserved populations

#### Cross-Campus Success Team: A group of approximately 20 professionals from these areas convenes weekly to talk about data and the students within the data. The group makes detailed action plans with specific tasks, responsible parties, and concrete deadlines.

#### Academic Programs:

undergraduate studies, honors program, undergraduate research, library services, and fellowships

Student Representation: Student government representative. Brings student voice to table and leverages additional support for success programs

### Example of Team Role and Responsibility

Office	Registrar
Individual	Susan Someone
Role	Student and course records
Responsibility	Several: e.g., List of High D/F courses each term List of students who did not register when they should have
Why	<ul> <li>(1) List of high D/F courses will be given to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies who will coordinate an analysis of the data, e.g., what is the gpa of students who did not pass; is the course syllabus accurate; did all students have the right prerequisites? Should the course be considered for re-engineering? What was the result of a discussion with the Dean of the college and the department Chair? Note: It was discovered that the course syllabus for "Introduction to Foreign Films" was highly misleading. The students thought they were going to be watching films while the faculty member was expecting discussions and essays on symbolism and meaning in the films.</li> <li>(2): The list of students who have not registered will be distributed to academic advisors in the college who will contact each student to find out why they did not register. Each advisor will report back next Friday. Note: We often discovered that the university had placed a "hold" on the student who might owe a parking fine or a library fine, etc. After examining the data we dropped all library fines as causing more harm and cost than benefits. We also made sure that all holds were also sent to the academic advisor for that student.</li> </ul>

The team met weekly to address key questions, make decisions, and sustain momentum

Diagnose Problems	<ul> <li>Which students are progressing as planned? Which students are not? Why?</li> <li>What seems to be impeding student progress or performance?</li> </ul>	Followed by an ACTION-oriented line of questioning
Problem- Solve	<ul> <li>Where should we intervene?</li> <li>What can we do that might make a difference?</li> </ul>	WHO will take responsibility for intervening?
Plan	<ul> <li>What additional supports can we put in place?</li> <li>What changes to our policies, programs or practices might we make that would be helpful?</li> </ul>	WHEN will that happen?
Evaluate	<ul> <li>Are our efforts having the impact we intended?</li> <li>Do we have the right strategies and supports in place?</li> </ul>	<b>HOW</b> will our progress be assessed?
Report	<ul> <li>What have we accomplished since our last meeting?</li> <li>What achievements or accomplishments can we celebrate?</li> </ul>	WHERE we will see results?

## Our team developed a series of 93+ action steps aligned with every month of the academic calendar

Month	Timeframe	Action	Responsibility
January	By end of January	Emails to students with 30 attempted hours who have not been accepted into a major	Individual Responsible
January	Ongoing	Update department Degree Audit reports	Individual Responsible
January	Ongoing	Individual contact with students who have been placed on probation	Academic Section
January	Ongoing	Individual contact with students who have been placed on warning	Academic Section
February	1 <sup>st</sup> week	Offer Workshop: Students Taking Exploratory Paths to Success Review Financial Aid	Advising First
February	1 <sup>st</sup> week in the month	Email to all F coded students w/100+ hours inquiring about graduation plans; email to all H coded students w/100+ hours inquiring about finishing/graduation plans	Individual Responsible
February	6 <sup>th</sup> week of term	New transfer—How are you doing— deadlines	Individual Responsible

#### Effective student success efforts are also dependent on having the right information

#### •Elements to Increase Student Success



## **TYPICAL ATTRITION TABLE**



LOSS OF STUDENTS OVER NINE YEARS

#### In looking at attrition rates, there is a range of rates at different points in time related to student background characteristics.

Yearly Attrition Rates by Cohort: White, Female, First-Time In-State Students



# Black male Pell recipients exhibited very different attrition rate patterns, suggesting the need for continued support over time to avoid dropouts.

Yearly Attrition Rates by Cohort: Black, Male, Pell Recipient, First-Time In-State Student



Hispanic female Pell recipients exhibited another attrition pattern, suggesting the need for close interaction with the students and their families.

Yearly Attrition Rates by Cohort: Hispanic, Female, Pell Recipient, First-Time In-State Students



#### Status of students six years after withdrawing\*

GPA	No Record	AA/Cert.	BA/BS +	Cohort %
0-1.99 n=1137	66.1%	23.2%	10.7%	NA
2.0-2.99 n=1136	46.4%	16.1%	37.5%	67%
3.0-4.0 n=842	16.3%	9.7%	74.0%	82%
Total n=3115	45.4%	16.9%	37.5%	74%

\*2004, 2005 Entering Cohorts, Student Data Clearinghouse, n=3115

# It is important to know when, where and how much contact advisors had with students

		Aug-09	Aug-08	Sep-09	Sep-08	Oct-09	Oct-08	Nov-09	Nov-08	Dec-10	Dec-08	Jan-10	Jan-09	Feb-10	Feb-09	
Appointmen	ts/Walk-Ins	256	186	484	358	736	978	523	467	100	150		275		626	
hone Calls		319	204	399	44	535	461	584	277	113	8	<b>–</b> .			121	
Imail		1492	963	17745	67	40740	21247	6766	16198	2592	137	Exten	t of adv	/ising	2448	
TOTAL		2067	1353	18628	469	42011	22686	7873	16942	2805	160	outro	ach act	tivity	3195	
monthly dif	ference		714		18159		19325		-9069		119				3195	
	Longitudinal Advis	ing Track	king Repor	t 2009-2	010			_	1.1	0		pe	er mont	h		
Section Tot	Aug-to-Date Sumn					183,667					_	7 /				
Advising	Office of Undergra	duate Stu	idies/Appo	ointment	s/Walk-In	S										
autising			Aug-09		Sep-09	Sep-08	Oct-09	Oct-08	Nov-09	Nov-08	Dec-09	Dec-08	Jan-10	Jan-09	Feb-10	Feb-09
HCB (appts/	Academic Dean (GB)			~	,	56	63				99	112	and the second second	133		42
ICB phone	Academic Coordinator	(EC)	Advisin	g activ	ity and	33	69				109			94		69
HCB email	Transfer Evaluations					74	122	148	61	375	51	37		181		183
Library (app	Academic Records		where	π τουκ	place	435	399	1173	507	1141	36	57		384		425
Library phon	TOTAL		on	campu	IS	598	653	1518	699	1679	295	288	0	792	0	719
Library ema	monthly difference		0.1	oumpe	.0	-302		-865		-980		7		-792		-719
other		_	<b>-</b> /													
TOTAL	Section Total															
monthly dif			F													
monony un	Center for Academ	ic Retent	ion and Er	nhancen	nent											
Section Tot	(exludes AF advisor)		Aug-09	Aug-08	Sep-09	Sep-08	Oct-09	Oct-08	Nov-09	Nov-08	Dec-09	Dec-08	Jan-10	Jan-09	Feb-10	Feb-09
	Appointments/Walk-Ins		4322	1639	1412	1860	4077	1862	8494	3297	2279	1281		1526		3950
Satellites	Tutorial Lab		1130	2214	7404	6450	1435	5963	3554	3627	2042	1087		1220		2259
Jatemites	Phone Calls		1654	854	1412	980	2211				N	lumbo	r of stu	Idont		1896
Biology (AS)	Email		15129	12598	6724	16875	25791	18396								11302
	TOTAL		22235	17305	16952	26165	33514					contact	ts made	e by	0	
Biology (DL) Business (D	monthly difference			4930		-9213		6309		14205			visors	· · <b>J</b>		-19407
the second se												ac	IVISUIS		_	
Business (R	Section Total		122512													
	Advising First ~ U	niversity (									1					
			Aug-09	Aug-08	Sep-09	Sep-08	Oct-09			Nov-08	Dec-10		Jan-10	Jan-09	Feb-10	
	Advisor Assignment		325	106	391	371	11070				145			507		232
	Appointments/Walk-Ins		269	487	167	192	209				74	184		252		36
	Phone Calls		765	1055	269	348	413				388			908		127
	Email		135	202	778	11958	181	440			51	163		183		100
	TOTAL		1494	1850	1605	12869	11873				658	934	0	1850	0	495
	monthly difference			-356		-11264		10017		-77		-276		-1850		-495

## **Top Ten Enrolled Courses**

A	D	L	U	E
Course Number	Course Ind	Course Name	Dept Name	Hours
MAC1105		COLLEGE ALGEBRA	Mathematics	5,094.00
HUM3321		MULTICULT FILM	Humanities	4,683.00
ECO2013	×	PRIN OF MACROECON	Economics	4,485.00
ENC1101	<b>↓</b>	FRESH COMP & RHETRC	English	4,392.00
BSC1005	<b>↓</b>	GEN BIO NON-MAJORS	Biological Science	4,305.00
AMH2097	<b>€</b>	RACE/ETHNICITY IN US	History	4,302.00
PSY2012	<b>€</b>	GEN PSYCHOLOGY	Psychology	4,272.00
CGS2060		COMPUTER FLUENCY	Computer Science	3,645.00
ENC1102	*	FRESH WRITING RESRCH	English	3,510.00
FAD2230		FAM RELSHP LIFE DEV	Family and Child Sciences	3,387.00

Courses with High D/F Grades

#### Focus on high enrollment low success courses

### Institutions Have a Large Effect on Excess Hours and the Cost to Students is Huge\*



#### **Ten Public Universities**

24

\*~54,600 students graduating from the SUS in 2011, ~1 million excess hours at a cost of > \$200 million to students in tuition, at 2011 rates.

## Source of Excess Hours\*

Source	Percentage of Total ( n=21.5 excess hours)
Withdrawals	20.2%
Course Failed	11.2%
Course Repeated	7.0%
Upper Level Course not Required	19.3%
Lower Level Course not Required	31.1%
Transfer Course not Required	11.1%
Change of Major	????

\*n=~39,989 students graduating in the State University System of Florida includes all undergraduate students, FTIC, AA, etc.: Source SUS Reports

# Why Students Drift

- Insufficient advising
- Catalogs are difficult to understand
- General Education requirements are confusing
- Cannot enroll in the required class: not offered, time conflicts with other classes, etc.
- Do not understand course prerequisites and/or course sequencing
- Course withdrawals, repeats and failures
- Changing majors late in academic career

#### **GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

#### Basic Liberal Studies Requirements: [2 courses must include the Diversity (D) overlay]

#### English Communication: 6 credits; 3 credits must be in a writing course

Writing (ECw): ELS 112, 122 (nonnative speakers); HPR 326; WRT 104, 105, 106, 201, 227, 235, 302, 303, 304(D), 305(D), 333. General (EC): COM 100(D), 110(D); LIB 120; PHL 101.

#### Fine Arts and Literature (A): 6 credits; 3 credits in Fine Arts and 3 credits in Literature

Fine Arts: ARH 120(D), 251(D), 252(D); ART 101, 207; FLM 101(D), 203(D), 204(D), 205(D); HPR 105, 124, 201A, 202A, 324; LAR 201; MUS 101(D), 106(D), 111, 292(D), 293(D); PLS 233; SPA 320(D); THE 100, 181, 351(D), 352(D), 381, 382, 383. Literature: AAF 247(D), 248(D); CLA 391(D), 395(D), 396(D), 397(D); CLS 160(D); ENG 110(D), 160(D), 241(D), 242(D), 243(D), 247(D), 248(D), 251(D), 252(D), 260(D), 262(D), 263(D), 264(D), 265(D), 280(D), 300(D), 302(D), 303(D), 304(D), 317(D), 355(D), 357(D), 358(D); FRN 309(D), 310(D), 320(D), 391(D), 392(D), 393(D); HPR 105, 125, 201A, 202A; RUS 391(D), 392(D); SPA 305(D), 306(D), 307(D), 308(D); WMS 317(D).

#### Language/Culture (FC): 6 credits

- Demonstration of competence through the intermediate level by examination or successfully completing through 104 (living language) or 302 (classical language)
- Two-course sequence (or one course at the 113 level) in a previously studied language through at the appropriate level (all D): ARB 103, 104; CHN 103, 104; FRN 103, 104; GER 103, 104; GRK 301, 302; HBW 103, 104; ITL 103, 104, 111; JPN 103, 104; LAN 193, 194; LAT 301, 302; POR 103, 104; RUS 103, 104; SPA 103, 104, 111, 113, 210.
- Two-course sequence (or one course at the 111 level) in a language not previously studied (or studied for less than two years in high school) through the beginning level: ARB 101, 102; CHN 101, 102; FRN 101, 102; GER 101, 102; GRK 101, 102; HBW 101, 102; ITL 101, 102; JPN 101, 102; LAN 191, 192; LAT 101, 102; POR 101, 102; RUS 101, 102; SPA 101, 102.
- Study abroad in an approved program for one semester
- Major in a foreign language
- Formerly registered international students, students with recognized immigrant status, or naturalized citizens (at Dean's discretion)
- Two courses in Cross-Cultural Competence: CPL 300(D); FRN 309(D), 310(D), 320(D), 391(D), 392(D), 393(D); HIS 132(D), 171(D), 172(D), 180(D), 311(D), 327(D), 374(D), 375(D); HPR 201F, 202F; LET 151L(D), 151Q(D), 151R; NRS 300; PHL 331(D); RLS 131(D); SPA 320(D), TMD 224(D); six credits of a full-semester approved Intercultural Internship in a foreign country through the Office of Internships and Experiential Education

#### Letters(L): 6 credits

AAF 150(D), 201(D), 355(D), 356(D); APG 327; BGS 392(D); CLS 160(D), 235; EGR 316(D); ENG 110(D), 160(D), 243(D), 251(D), 252(D), 280(D), 355(D), 356(D); FRN 391(D), 392(D), 393(D); HIS 111, 112, 113(D), 114(D), 116, 117, 118(D), 130(D), 132(D), 141(D), 142(D), 145(D), 146(D), 150(D), 160(D), 171(D), 172(D), 180(D), 304, 305, 310(D), 311(D), 314, 323(D), 327(D), 332(D), 333(D), 340(D), 341(D), 346(D), 351(D), 355(D), 356(D), 374(D), 375(D); HPR 107, 201L, 202L, 307; JOR 110(D); LAR 202(D); LET 151L(D), 151Q(D), 151R(D); NUR 360(D); PHL 101, 103, 204, 210(D), 212(D), 215, 217(D), 235, 314, 316(D), 321, 322, 323(D), 325(D), 328(D), 331(D), 346, 355; PSC 341, 342; PSY 310; RLS 111(D), 125, 126, 131(D); WMS 220(D), 315(D), 320(D)

#### Mathematics(MQ): 3 credits satisfied by MTH 141

BUS 111, CSC 101, 201; HPR 108, 201M, 202M; MTH 106, 107, 108, 109, 111, 131, 141; PSC 109; STA 220.

#### Natural Sciences(N): 6 credits; satisfied by PHY

AFS 190, 210, 211; APG 201(D); AST 108, 118; AVS 101(D); BCH 190; BIO 101, 102, 105, 106, 286(D); BPS 201; CHM 100, 101, 103, 112; GEO 100, 102, 103, 110, 113, 120; HPR 109, 201N, 202N; MIC 190; NFS 207; NRS 190; OCG 110, 123, 131; PHY 109, 111, 112, 140, 185, 186, 203, 204, 205, 273, 274, 275; PLS 150, 190; TMD 113

#### Social Sciences(S): 6 credits

APG 200(D), 202, 203(D), 301(D); CPL 202(D); ECN 100(D), 201, 202, 306, 381(D); EDC 102(D); EEC 105, 310, 356; GEG 101(D), 104(D), 202(D); HDF 225; HPR 110(D), 201S, 202S; HSS 130; JOR 110(D); KIN 123(D); LIN 200(D); MAF 100; NUR 150(D); PSC 113(D), 116(D), 274(D), 288; PSY 103(D), 113(D), 232(D), 235(D), 254(D), 255(D); SOC 100(D), 212(D), 230(D), 240(D), 242(D), 274(D); TMD 224(D), WMS 150(D)

# Effective student success efforts are also dependent on the right institutional strategies





### There is no silver bullet. You increase retention literally one student at a time.

A successful implementation of academic maps required a series of steps to achieve the desired results

Challenge	Solution	Results
<ul> <li>Students could not enroll in the courses they needed</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Built Demand Analysis to monitor need and open sections for students</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Small improvement in retention and graduation; little to no reduction in excess hours</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Students lack a clear path to graduation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Introduced maps for all majors</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Slight improvement in retention and graduation; no reduction in excess hours</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Students continued to take courses that were not "on map"</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Added Milestone courses with hold on registration and required students to select area of interest or major upon entering</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>6% point increase in retention rate and almost 17% point increase in 4- yr. graduation rate; number of students with &gt;120 hours decreased from 30% to less than 5%</li> </ul>

## Academic maps: four essential components – the narrative, sample schedule, milestones and employment opportunities

The narrative explains the **use** of academic maps and any specific information about degree requirements, including admissions requirements

The sample schedule outlines which courses should be taken in which specific term in order to satisfy all requirements

List of Representative Job Titles and Potential Employers Criminology/Criminal Justice is an interdisciplinary field of study. Included are the contributions and approaches of many of the social and behavioral sciences, as well as areas of study such as law and ethics, as they relate to the phenomenon of crime. The criminology/criminal justice major prepares students for employment in a wide variety of criminal justice agencies, under local, state and federal jurisdictions, as well as the private sector. This major can also serve as a foundation for graduate study in criminology, law, social work, sociology, psychology, and government including public administration.

Sample Schedule	Milestones	
TERM 1	Hrs.	TERM 1
ENC1101	3	Complete ENC1101
LS Math	3	GPA ≥ 2.0 and in good academic standing
LS Natural Science w/Lab	4	
Elective/minor	3	The milestones identify critical
Elective	1	courses for timely progress and the
Total hours	14	last semester in which they can be completed for <b>on-time graduation</b> .
TERM 2	Hrs.	Critical grades for Milestone
ENC1102 or other second English	3	courses may be included.
LS Math (STA1013/2122)	3	Complete LS Mathematics course
LS History/Humanities/Fine Arts	3	GPA ≥ 2.0 and in good academic standing
CGS2060	3	
Elective/minor	3	
Total hours	15	

## At CUNY Lehman College, entering students are required to choose from pre-built course schedules



Credit: CUNY Lehman College, "Building Guided Pathways to Success," Education Advisory Board

#### Florida International University Milestone Courses with Critical Grades

Spring Term	2013	Term Hours: 14 Cum GPA: 2.000			
Course Group	Course Required	Course Description	Credit Hours	Critical Indicator	Course Notes
Common Prerequisites	CHM 1046	Gen Chemistry II	3.00	В	Note Critical Grade Based on
Common Prerequisites	CHM 1046L	Gen Chem Lab II	1.00	В	Predictive Analytics
UCC English Composition	ENC 1102	Writing and Rhetoric	3.00		
Common Prerequisites	MAC 2312	Calculus II	4.00	В	Also satisfies UCC Second Quantitative Reasoning course. (1) See endnotes
UCC Social Inquiry - Foundations of Social Inquiry			3.00		(1) See endnotes

### PLACE MAPS TOGETHER IN A CONSPICUOUS LOCATION TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO BROWSE AND COMPARE



## Milestone Courses by Major and by Term

Major	Lower Division Students	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Accounting	26	Algebra	Calculus	Statistics
Biology	1307	Algebra	Calculus	Statistics
Chemistry	188	Algebra	Calculus	Finite Math
Criminology	405	Algebra	Mathematics	Statistics
Dietetics	617	Algebra		Statistics
Economics	93	Algebra	Statistics	Trigonometry 35

## Policies MUST Accompany Academic Maps

#### **Academic Policies**

- ✓ Early declaration of major or meta-major
- $\checkmark$  Establish and offer Milestone courses
- ✓ Rationalize General Education requirements

#### **Advising Policies**

- ✓ Offer Choosing a Major workshops
- Monitor student progress and intrude when necessary
- Meet with every student who is "Off Map"

#### **Communication Polices**

- $\checkmark \quad \mathsf{Earning} \ \mathsf{a} \ \mathsf{degree} \ \mathsf{is} \ \mathsf{a} \ \mathsf{four} \ \mathsf{year} \ \mathsf{process}$
- Maps must be integrated into every aspect of the academic experience
Providing Students with a clear Path to Graduation Reduces Excess Hours, Significantly Reduces Costs and Improves Time to Graduation

Year	Students with Excess Hours	4-year Graduation Rate
2000	7,382	44.2%
2006	3,011	
2009	1,540	61.1%*

\*2008 cohort 4 year graduation rate

The team used data to identify strategies ensuring they covered students from the time they entered until they graduated •Overview of Student Success Strategies

Bridge- Building	Programs that help students successfully make the transition from high school to college	1 <sup>st</sup> year of college	<ul> <li>Living Learning Communities</li> <li>Freshmen Interest Groups</li> </ul>
Charting a Course	Efforts that help students successfully navigate the process of declaring a major in a timely manner	1 <sup>st</sup> year to 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of college; sophomore status	<ul> <li>Academic Mapping</li> <li>Choosing a Major Workshop</li> </ul>
Consisten t Support	Support services that aid students in continuing to meet academic requirements of the institution	On-going basis, throughout time in college	<ul> <li>Advising &amp; Tutoring</li> <li>CARE</li> <li>Success Coaching</li> </ul>

# Benefits of first year residence on campus persist to graduation

	High risk living on campus	Low Risk living off campus
First Year Retention	93.3%	83.4%
Four-year Retention/ Graduation	81.1%	73.9%
Grade Point Average	2.82	2.62

Avg of 2004,05,06,07 cohorts; Housing Study

Every strategy was regularly monitored and evaluated for its overall impact on student success.

Living Learning Communities & Freshman Interest Groups Improve Student Retention & Graduation



Every strategy was measured against important progress metrics such as term-to-term attrition, grade point average, and major selection rate

#### •Impact of a Success Coaching Program

**Program Description** 

Program that provides support for students around these 7 "soft" factors that influence retention and graduation:

- Commitment to graduation
- Managing commitments
- Finances
- School community
- Academics
- Effectiveness
- Health & Support

Fall 2009 Results<sup>1</sup> Success Measure Coached Non-Coached Improvement Condition 2.3 pts Spring-to-Fall Attrition 8.8% 11.2% (23%) 0.05 pts Average GPA 3.24 3.19 (1.6%) Loss of Bright Futures 16.1% 17.5% 1.4 pts Eligibility<sup>2</sup> (64) (70) (8%) 3% 5% 2 pts At-Risk Students (12)(20) (40%) 5 pts Major Selection Rate<sup>3</sup> 63% 58% (8%) Students Off Map<sup>4</sup> 10.5% 10.6%

**Overall Impact** 

Source: Florida State University

### Low Cost Effective Strategies - I

- Academic Mapping for each Degree: term by term course schedule with must take Milestone courses and/or actions required.
- Action steps with student contact aligned with the academic calendar.
- Moving Advisors to where the students are at the time when they are there, recording all interactions/questions by time-of-day by day-of-week.

## Low Cost Effective Strategies - II

- Place High Risk Students in Residence Halls
- Hire students for on-campus jobs
- W.E.B. Du Bois Honor Society
- Oscar Arias Honor Society
- Freshmen Interest Groups (FIGS)
- Learning Communities in Residence Halls
- Use technology to monitor attendance and to develop Early Alerts

# Higher Cost Effective Strategies

- Re-engineer Low Success Courses
- Add programs for High Risk students
- Add Advisors
- Purchase/utilize Predictive Analytics to guide students in course selection and in selecting a major
- Add Tutors in selected courses
  - Drop in tutoring
  - Tutoring by appointment
- Add "Successful Learning Strategy" course
- Add Success Coaches

# Strategies for at-risk students

- Recruit First Generation students primarily of low socioeconomic status
- Operates Summer Bridge Program
- Early arrival a week before classes
- Mandatory activities
- On-campus housing with CARE counselors as well as traditional RAs
- Tracks, assists and mentors students

# Strategies for High End Students

- Expanded Honors Program
- Expansion of Undergraduate Research
- Undergraduate Research Symposia
- Competitive Grants Program
- Office of National Fellowships
- Campus Lecture Series Run by Students

# The Florida State University Return on Investment

First Time in College 6000
 1994 attrition 16.5% (990)
 2010 attrition 8.0% (480)
 Gain in students over four years ~2040
 Total investment \$2,600,000
 Gain in tuition alone\* \$6,120,000
 Net gain \$3,520.000

\*Calculated at \$3000 per student, excluding fees of ~\$1500.

#### Significant Improvements in Student Retention Can be Achieved with Focused Efforts

Implementation Timeline of Strategies



#### **GRADUATION RATES INCREASED**



#### Improving Retention Will Yield a Significant Increase in Degrees



