BUILDING AN EXPLORATORY DREAM TEAM
A Collaborative Approach to Meeting the Unique Needs of Undecided College Students

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Today’s Presentation

• Higher Education Under Scrutiny
• Benefits of Higher Learning
• Dreams versus Reality
• Targeting Special Populations
• Meeting the Challenges of Undecided Students
• Tough Times Call for Tough Measures
• Collaboration in Action
Recent Economic Trends

• Rising Costs of Higher Education
• Increase in Students Receiving Financial Aid
• Reduced State Funding
• Greater Demand for Accountability and Student Outcome Data
Economic Benefits of a College Degree

2011 Bureau of Labor Statistics Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
<th>Education Attained</th>
<th>Median Weekly Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>1,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>1,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
<td>1,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>1,053</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>High-school Diploma</td>
<td>638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>Less than a high school diploma</td>
<td>451</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Additional Benefits of a College Degree

College Board’s Education Pays 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Educated Adults are More Likely to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receive Health Insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have Pension Benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be More Satisfied with their Jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage in their Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead Healthier Lifestyles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage in Educational Activities with their Children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disconnect Between Dreams and Reality

• Only 57.7% of first-time students who sought a bachelor’s degree completed it within 6 years.
  - The College Completion Agenda

• Only 77.1% of students who begin college will continue into their second year.
  - NCES, IPEDS Fall 2010 Enrollment Retention Rate File
2010 ACT Results

- 94 Interventions/Services
- 258 Chief Academic Officers
  - Incidence rates
  - Contributors to retention
- Cross Analysis Revealed
  - Advising special populations as highest ranked intervention contributing to student retention
Informed by Research

• When plans remain unformulated over extended periods of time, students are more likely to depart without completing their degree programs (Tinto, 1993, p. 41).

• College students clearly need support from effective advisors to negotiate the challenging process of educational planning and decision-making (Cuseo, 2008).
Setting the Stage: Advising Challenges

- Students Required Comprehensive Approach
- Lack of Knowledge and Training on Career Integration
- Misconceptions of Undecided Population
- High Student to Advisor Ratio
- Limited Resources
Setting the Stage: Career Center Challenges

- Perceptions of Career Services
- Mixed Messages from Administration
- Time Intensive Nature
- Limited Resources
- Population Specific Training
- Lack of Academic/Referral Knowledge
The FSU Partnership

- History & Initial Contact
- Consistent Approach
- Staff Cross-training
- Create Shared Documents
- Effective Referrals
- Shared Programming
- Evaluation & Research
- Conference Participation
FSU’s Exploratory Program

• Largest Major for Freshman
• Based on Leading Research in Career Development and Academic Advising
• Structured and Mandatory
• Retention Rate has Increased by 5%
• Declaration Rate 99%
• Outstanding Program Award
Collaboration in Action
Ten Tips for Partnerships

1) Take a Pro-active Approach
2) Discuss Shared Missions and Goals
3) Identify Resources
4) Find Community Partners
5) Create Print and Electronic Collaborative Resources
Ten Tips for Partnerships

6) Co-present and Cross-train staff
7) Appoint Liaisons
8) Evaluate and Share Best Practices with Stakeholders
9) Connect with Professional Associations
10) Partner in Programming
References

ACT Research and Policy Issues: What Works in Student Retention
Retrieved from
http://www.act.org/research/policymakers/reports/retain.html

http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm

http://completionagenda.collegeboard.org/graduation-rates-bachelor’s-degree-seeking-students


http://www.uwc.edu/administration/academic-affairs/esfy/cuseo/Academic%20Advisement%20and%20Student%20Retention.doc
References


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