Using Data to Drive Student Success

An Inside Higher Ed webcast
Wednesday, March 16, 2022
2 p.m. EST
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The Centrality of Student Success

• Access still matters (maybe more than ever), but it isn’t sufficient.

• Why colleges must care about persistence/success:
  • It’s the right thing to do for students (and society).
  • Many colleges’ financial futures depend on it in era of changing demographics.
  • External accountability pressure is growing.
How We’re Doing on Persistence

Figure 1a. Persistence Rates by Starting Enrollment Intensity: All Institutions

National Student Clearinghouse
Student Success Is a Multi-Faceted Challenge

- Campus environment (community and sense of belonging)
- Relationship-building (faculty, staff, peers)
- Instructional practices (use of high-impact practices, student-centered design)
- Student services (mental health, advising, career services)
- Data and technology
How Can Data Collection and Use Help?

• Identifying how different groups of students (and specific students) are faring.
• Assessing which kinds of practices have the biggest/least impact.
• Arming instructors, advisers and others with information to intervene to help students.
Students’ Basic Needs

Photos courtesy of Amarillo College, San Antonio College, Sam Houston State U
Enabling Transfer and Credit Mobility

• Understand your institution’s data on transfer.
• Set goals and use them as a framework to audit transfer data needs.
• Turn transfer student experiences into data.
• Create spaces for key stakeholders to engage with the data.
Impediments to Data Use

Figure 10. What are the primary constraints to your college’s ability to expand current data collection to more substantially incorporate holistic student success metrics—including, but not limited to, basic needs fulfillment, engagement, and well-being?

Percent of respondents that selected each as a constraint to data collection expansion. Respondents selected up to three of the below items.

- Lack of human resources within institutional research or equivalent departments: 53%
- Inadequate digital data infrastructure (new platforms, data software, etc.): 42%
- Lack of capacity to incorporate and analyze new metrics: 34%
- Lack of capacity to determine which holistic metrics to use: 26%
- Lack of employee skills and/or professional development opportunities in key areas (i.e. data collection, analysis, etc.): 22%
- General resistance to change among faculty/staff: 14%
- Inadequate cross-institutional collaboration: 14%
- General resistance to change among leadership: 2%

Source: Ithaka S+R
Changes in Developmental Education

City U of New York
“While AI-assisted education technologies offer great promise, they also pose a significant risk of simply replicating the biases of the past….Researchers and policy makers should proceed with caution and healthy skepticism to ensure that these technologies are designed and implemented ethically and equitably.”

--Dan Knox and Zach Pardos, “Toward Ethical and Equitable AI in Higher Education”
A Word About Privacy

Student Data Privacy Policies

How much students are aware of such policies at their college versus how important they think they are.

- 12% Aware of policy, have read it
- 37% Aware of policy, have not read it
- 36% Not aware of policy

Student Voice, from Inside Higher Ed/College Pulse/Kaplan
Diving Deeper
Questions?
Thanks

D2L