

Student Success Innovations Meeting Summary

October 7, 2015

1. Is there a need for innovative approaches to improve student success and what does innovative approaches mean?

- Creative
- Responsive to student needs
- Something different than is currently being done
- Fluidity and flexibility approaches
- Adaptive to different learning styles – not one size fits all
- Need to examine what we are doing now and may just need to modify or take to the next level what we are already doing. Something that works at one school, may not work at another school. Sometimes innovation is looking at how we are doing things now and why they are working or why they are not working.
- Communication

2. What is student success?

- To persist and complete
- Employable

3. How can we best identify the innovative and successful approaches already being adopted in the state?

- One way to help our students become more employable or convince employers they are employable, is in addition to an academic transcript also have a life skills or soft skills transcript so students can prove to employers they assumed leadership positions on campus and are more than just a person with technical skills.
- Babb Student Center at UAFS has been very successful in making students more employable and employers hire students with certificates from the Babb Center

4. Does student success go beyond once the student is no longer in higher education?

- It is fundamentally unfair to hold colleges and universities responsible for whether or not our students go to work because we have no control over the employers or our local economy. Our job is to get them work ready, but beyond that we cannot control if they get employed or get employed at a higher wage.
- Employability is impacted by what we are producing and whether or not we are successful
- Measuring success – what we do in our day to day to contribute to a student’s success: effective advising, need for plenty of courses to match availability and student need, campus engagement, engagement with peers and faculty members, effective student services, effective tutoring support services, etc. We already have these pieces, so what are some other pieces to student success? Portfolios can be a way to engage students. We know connected students are successful students.

5. What is holding us back?

- We have less time to dedicate to direct services to students because of so many compliance issues from the federal government

6. What are some successful approaches or programs being adopted now?

- Replicate programs like trio programs – strong advising, a connection to tutoring and a relational model
- Intrusive advising
- Career Pathways Initiatives - one of the best programs in the state
- Concurrent credits program - a way to help students see some success early and see college as an option
- Summer bridge programs
- Charles W. Donaldson Scholars Academy at UALR

7. Identify one program on your campus now that has either shown or could lead to greater student success?

- Case management approach
- ACE Program –students who score low on their ACT are put into cohorts very quickly
- Peer guide/student lead program - two upperclassmen, male and female, put with each freshman class so they are there to see any problems or struggling students
- Student Success Center at UAMS – centralize one unit and website services like tutoring, advising, etc.

- Leadership Institute – challenges students to engage in real world tasks and the students are given feedback
- Merit based scholarship program at UALR – merit based on high school counselors’ recommendations of students involved in leadership in high school. These students are brought in to engage and lead on campus.
- Orientation courses
- Career Pathways Initiatives excellent model
- Trio programs excellent model
- Mandatory counseling
- Intrusive advising
- Financial literacy
- STEM Academy at UAPB – summer academy to work on math, writing and computer skills along with biology and chemistry
- College and Career Access Program “CCAP” at College of the Ouachitas
- One student one staff initiative at UACCB - mentor relationship
- Math remediation – remedial math together with college algebra
- Career Coach program at ASU Mid-South
- Attendance alerts
- Athletic programs
- Early alert system
- Phi Theta Kappa – Honor Society for Community Colleges
- Admissions process and student assessments so we can know about our students
- Focus on advising – “Centralized Advising Center” – focus particularly on first and second year students
- Tracking student success initiatives
- Visible administration and staff
- Mentoring program – program that mentors freshman throughout their freshman year
- Financial aid – put a hold on financial aid until student meets with their advisor
- Career guided pathways

8. How do you know these things are working? Is data being used? Are you tracking on a regular basis to know if these programs are working?

- There are multiple measures and we need to make sure we are measuring correctly
- Need to look at tracking of students

9. Could ADHE help with data collection?

- No because it tends to encourage a one size fits all approach

10. What could prevent successful innovation from being adopted?

- Need the right people leading
- State laws – why are we not remediating students in 12th grade?
- Do our graduates stay in Arkansas – need linking of student data base to employment in the state

11. Reasons why something would not work on one campus that works on another campus?

- Opportunity given to students to take the compass test to help with remediation rates
- Service learning
- Noncredit programs – successful program for the community, the students and the employers, but the institution receives no credit
- Dwindling state funding – staff to student ratio is not focused on and staff is required to do more with less of them

12. If funds became available, what would you do to improve student success?

- More time focused on gateway courses and the success students are having with those courses
- Mandatory study halls and more study groups to reach out and help the students
- Intentional relationship building programs – challenge faculty and staff and students to connect. Relationship building can have a big impact on student success.
- Celebrations of minor successes – parties for good grades on tests, certificates each semester, etc.
- Lower teaching load by having smaller classes (half the size) - allows more one on one time to get to know the students and be able to see who is having issues

13. Are there things you are currently spending money on that needs to be evaluated or that you should not be spending money on?

- Something that does not require money is the one student one staff initiative – staff members volunteer, not to be counselors or academic advisors, but a name of someone on campus to be an encourager and a mentor to check on the student
- “Scholarship students” program – a program for those scholarship students leaving because they lose their scholarships. This program has someone assigned to check on those students twice each semester to make sure they are on track and make sure they know what they need to keep their scholarship (15 hours, GPA, etc.)
- High probation or suspension students program – very little success with this program and decided to step back and find a better use of those resources
- Summer students – the students work together and are responsible for another student because students can help influence and encourage each other and create a family atmosphere.

There are two sets of people working together – the faculty and staff and the students working with each other

- Interdisciplinary Experiential Cohorts – first year cohort based around a theme that the student is interested in exploring. Student services and academic affairs work together to create this experience outside of the classroom and credit is received

14. Any specific successful programs for nontraditional students?

- Career pathways
- Prior learning assessments
- Trio programs
- Veteran programs