



Center for Student Success: An Overview

March 3, 2011

OACC Statewide Symposium:
The Student Success Agenda

Overview

- Core assumption: state-level capacity is needed to bridge the gap between campus-based work and aggressive goals for college completion
- The vision of the Center for Student Success, under the MCCA umbrella, is to serve as a hub for student success efforts and to create a tighter link between practice, research and policy.
- The Kresge Foundation has awarded MCCA \$1 Million, over three years, to make the vision for the Center for Student Success a reality in Michigan.

Why Now?

Growing state and national imperative for college completion and student success with a specific focus on community colleges

- Federal, state and philanthropic goals
- Major student success initiatives
 - Achieving the Dream
 - Breaking Through
 - Complete College America
 - Completion by Design
 - Developmental Education Initiative
 - Getting Past Go
 - Shifting Gears

Why Now?

- According to a recent study by Anthony Carnevale @ Georgetown University, more than 60% of all jobs by the end of this decade will require college education
- Currently, 38% of adults 25-34 nationally and 36% in Michigan have a college degree (defined as an associate or bachelors degree)
- Public 2-year college graduation rates (in 150% of normal time) are 15% in Michigan and 21% nationally
- Michigan community college graduation rates ranged from 36% to 8% in the 2007-2008 academic year
- We can argue about the specific numbers and definitions, BUT the trend and the need for better outcomes are clear.

What is the value proposition of a statewide student success focus for...

- Students?
- Individual colleges?
- State of Michigan?

Center Goal #1: Creating better synergies between existing student success initiatives

Key Questions:

- How do we collectively leverage the good things that are going on campuses and how do we structure these conversations?
- How do we build on the activities of existing work of initiatives like Achieving the Dream, Breaking Through, and Shifting Gears as well as emerging efforts?
- How do we ensure we are engaging the key constituencies including senior college leadership, faculty, and external partners?

Center Goal #1: Creating better synergies between existing student success initiatives

Core Activities – Year 1:

- Develop a comprehensive strategy for facilitating the convening of college practitioners
- Initiate regional “Strategic Conversations” across the state with partners around talent development and student success strategies/innovations
- Hold an institute on governance and student success with presidents and trustees
- Plan, organize, and convene the next annual statewide Student Success Summit

Center Goal #2: Facilitating the translation of research, learning & best practices into a cohesive state policy agenda

Key Questions:

- What are the most pressing questions college practitioners and policymakers need answered?
- What does existing or emerging research say about promising practices and can it be translated and scaled across Michigan campuses?
- How do we best leverage limited IR staff to evaluate campus-based interventions?

Center Goal #2: Facilitating the translation of research, learning & best practices into a cohesive state policy agenda

Core Activities – Year 1:

- Develop a statewide student success research agenda with key university partners
- Draw on existing research (i.e. CCRC, Statway, etc.) and integrate it into efforts in Michigan
- Work with campuses to evaluate the efficacy of ongoing and emerging best practices

Center Goal #3: Leveraging the creation of the statewide data system to identify a set of measures the colleges can use to gauge improvement

Key Questions:

- How can colleges influence the roll out of the P-20 data system and leverage it both individually and collectively?
- What are the most appropriate measures colleges can use to track student progression and completion and how do these relate to the emerging national consensus on metrics?
- How can the Center help augment limited IR capacity?

Center Goal #3: Leveraging the creation of the statewide data system to identify a set of measures the colleges can use to gauge improvement

Core Activities – Year 1:

- Convene an ongoing community college P-20 longitudinal data system taskforce
- Facilitate a dialogue about appropriate performance measures drawing on national conversations as well as the needs in Michigan
- Explore avenues to pool IR capacity and knowledge regionally to support the better use of data across all campuses

Center Goal #4: Convene an Advisory State Policy Team to Develop a Student Success Policy Agenda

Key Questions:

- How do the 28 independent community colleges in Michigan act like a system without being a system?
- What are the common challenges and problems that would be better served by collective policy action?
- What state and external partners need to be at the table to contribute to this dialogue?

Center Goal #4: Convene an Advisory State Policy Team to Develop a Student Success Policy Agenda

Core Activities – Year 1:

- Establish a policy advisory group to guide the development of a statewide student success policy agenda
- Build coalitions with other like-minded organizations and interests
- Identify key policy areas where collective action is most valuable, which cuts across ongoing and emerging student success initiatives
- Provide input and advice to the Snyder Administrations education policy discussions

Questions and Discussion



Center for Student Success

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