Student Support (Re)defined
Student Panel

Students’ perspectives on what helps them be successful

Darla M. Cooper, Ed.D.
Rogeair Purnell, Ph.D.
Agenda

- Overview of the Student Support (Re)defined Study
- Student Panel
- Questions from the audience
- Next steps for Student Support (Re)defined
OVERVIEW OF STUDY AND KEY FINDINGS

What is Student Support (Re)defined?
General research question

In an environment of extreme scarcity, which student support activities can be delivered inside and outside of the classroom to improve success for all students, paying special attention to African-American and Latino learners?
Participating colleges
Study participants

- Survey: 785 students (12 CCCs)
  - 36% current students, 32% completers, 32% leavers
  - 30% first generation
  - 32% white, 31% Latino, 25% African American, 12% other

- Focus groups: 102 students (4 CCCs)
Six success factors

- Directed
- Focused
- Valued
- Nurtured
- Connected
- Engaged
Six success factors

- **Directed:** Students have a goal and know how to achieve it
- **Focused:** Students stay on track—keeping their eyes on the prize
- **Nurtured:** Students feel somebody wants them to succeed as a student and helps them succeed
Six success factors (cont.)

- **Connected**: Students feel they are part of the college community

- **Engaged**: Students actively listen and participate in class and are involved in extracurricular activities

- **Valued**: Students’ skills, talents, abilities and experiences are recognized; they have opportunities to contribute on campus and feel their contributions are appreciated
Key Themes

1. Colleges need to foster students' motivation.
2. Colleges must teach students how to succeed in the postsecondary environment.
3. Colleges need to structure support to ensure all "six success factors" are addressed.
4. Colleges need to provide comprehensive support to historically underserved students to prevent the equity gap from growing.
5. Everyone has a role to play in supporting student achievement, but faculty must take the lead.
STUDENTS’ PERSPECTIVE

What do students think?
Panelists Introductions

• Name
• College
• Major
• Future plans
Question #1

What would you say has been the one thing most important to your success as a student?
Question #2

Directed and Focused

What helped you decide on your educational and career goals and what keeps you focused on achieving your goals?
Question #3

Connected and Engaged

When have you felt a sense of belonging at the college and what made you want to actively participate in your learning?
Question #4

Nurtured and Valued

Who at the college has shown you that they care about you and your success and/or made you feel that you have something of value to offer?
Question #5

How can different members of the college community help you in your efforts to be a successful student and what can your teachers do in particular to help you be a successful student?
Question #6

What information from the study do you think students need to know and how can we present it in a way that students can use to help them be successful?
Q & A
RP’s Next Steps

• Sharing these findings among a variety of constituent groups

• Developing an action guide that helps facilitate the improvement of student support

• Reconnecting with colleges that participated in the study and convenings to see how they are using the findings

• Identifying practices that can be sustained and scaled at the individual, program/department and institutional levels
For more information on Student Support (Re)defined

http://www.rpgroup.org/projects/student-support

Dr. Darla Cooper, Project Director
dcooper@rpgroup.org
Thank you!