Student Support (Re)defined

From Research to Action on Your Campus

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Agenda

• What is Student Support (Re)defined?
• How do the six success factors relate to your work with students?
• What does it all mean?
• What is the Action Guide?
• Where do we go from here?
Outcomes

Participants will:

• Gain an introductory understanding of the Student Support (Re)defined study and results

• Engage with colleagues in conversations about student support

• Gain familiarity with an action guide designed to help colleges explore ways to strengthen student support

• Envision how you can use the guide on your campus
OVERVIEW OF STUDY PURPOSE, DESIGN & METHODOLOGY

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)
INTRODUCTION TO THE SIX SUCCESS FACTORS

How do these factors relate to your work with students?
Six success factors

- Directed
- Focused
- Valued
- Nurtured
- Connected
- Engaged
Six success factors: Activity 1

We…

• Discuss the six success factor definition and key findings

You…

• Reflect on and share what do you do in your work with students to promote the six success factors
Six success factors: Directed

Definition:
Students have a goal and know how to achieve it

Question:
What do you do to help students find direction?
Six success factors: Focused

Definition:
Students stay on track—keeping their eyes on the prize

Question:
What do you do to help students stay focused?
Six success factors: Nurtured

Definition:

Students feel somebody wants and helps them to succeed

Question:

What do you do to help students feel like you care about their success?
Six success factors: Engaged

Definition:

Students actively listen and participate in class and are involved in extracurricular activities

Question:

What do you do to promote students’ engagement in and out of the classroom?
Six success factors: Connected

Definition:
Students feel they are part of the college community

Question:
What do you do to help students feel connected at your college?
Six success factors: Valued

Definition:

Students’ skills, talents, abilities and experiences are recognized; they have opportunities to contribute on campus and feel their contributions are appreciated.

Question:

What do you do to help students feel valued at your college?
IMPLICATIONS OF THE RESEARCH

What does all this mean?
What does this research say?

What we see...

What the student experiences...

- the teacher who believes in me
- the dean who helped me get into Math 1A
- the counselor who helped me with my ed plan
- the patient tutor
- the nice woman in financial aid
- the man in the cafeteria who asks how I'm doing
- the students I study with
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.
What is the Student Support (Re)defined Action Guide?
What is the purpose of the Action Guide?

• Assist an existing initiative or facilitate a new effort to improve student support and success
• Provide a resource for exploring our research and planning for action
• Help colleges strengthen success through integrated support
Who can use the Action Guide?
How do you use the Action Guide?

Reinforcing an existing effort…

• Select resources that inform and advance your process or initiative

Starting from scratch…

• Take a more holistic approach, utilizing the process and activities, start to finish
What does the Action Guide include?

Phase 1: Preparation
Phase 2: Engagement
Phase 3: Action
Phase 1: Preparation

• Form a core group of leaders who will guide this inquiry process

• Collectively familiarize yourselves with the Student Support (Re)defined research

• Identify additional team members
Phase 2: Engagement

- Coalesce your team
- Establish a common definition for student support
- Select success factors and explore them in your own college’s context
Phase 2: Engagement

Success Factor Discussion Guides

• Organized by factor
• Provide a definition for the success factor
• Highlight key findings for that factor
• Provide a list of actions related to the factor suggested by students to help their success
Phase 2: Engagement

Success Factor Discussion Guides

• Offer questions designed to facilitate discussion on:
  • How the findings related to the factor fit within your local context
  • How current college practices help support students in areas related to the factor
  • Possible responses to students’ suggestions related to the factor
  • Ideas for change related to the factor
Phase 3: Action

- Decide what change to pursue
- Plan for action
- Reflect on your process
Additional Resources in the Action Guide

Optional activities:

• Icebreaker for first meeting
• Defining student support
• Relating own work to success factors
• Selecting success factor to explore
Additional Resources in the Action Guide

Appendices:

• Sample invitation for participation
• Opportunity matrix
• Action plan template
Action on your campus: Activity 2

What is one step you can take to begin using this guide on your own campus?

• Current initiatives at your college that could benefit from using this resource

• Others on your campus with whom you could share this guide
STUDENT SUPPORT (RE)DEFINED NEXT STEPS

Where do we go from here?
RP’s Next Steps

• Dissemination of the Action Guide
• Development of featured practices primer
• Technical assistance to individual colleges interested in exploring findings and planning for action
For more information

Student Support (Re)defined website
http://www.rpgroup.org/projects/student-support

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Thank You!