Two Key Questions

1. What is the Completion Agenda, and why is it important?

2. What really works to help students succeed?
Question One

What is the Completion Agenda, and why is it Important?
The mission of the Completion Agenda is to double the number of students who by the year 2020 earn a certificate, associate’s degree, or transfer to a four-year college or university.
• President Obama: 5 million more CC grads by 2020
• Gates: double number of grads
• CC Org: 50% more by 2020
• Ohio: 50% by 2020
• Anne Arundel: double by 2020
Why Important?

• Once first in the world, America now ranks 16th in the percentage of young adults with a college degree.

• The World Economic Forum ranks the U.S.’s educational system 26th in the world.
Why Important?

• For the first time in our history, the current generation of college-age Americans will be less educated than their parents’ generation.

• “If your daddy was rich, you’re gonna stay rich, and if your daddy was poor you’re gonna stay poor.”

*Esquire, January 2012*
Why Important?

- 14% of CC students do not complete a single credit in first term
- Almost 50% drop out by second yr.
- 60% need remediation
- 33% recommended for dvlp. studies never enroll in those courses
In the history of our colleges

- Never so much support from so many stakeholders
- Never so much funding from foundations
- Never so much research on what works to ensure student success
The Alliance offers a serious and multi-voiced discussion on “success and completion.”

What is it? How do we know?
Who is ahead of the curve?

Peter Quigley
Alliance Chair, 2013
I extend an invitation to all academic professionals in the Western states to join us for significant conversations about what matters most in institutions of higher education: the success of our diverse students.

Maria Harper-Marinick
Alliance Chair, 2014
Question Two

What really works to help students succeed?
High Impact Practices

• Learning Communities
• On-Time Registration
• Contextual Instruction
• Course Re-design
• Intrusive Advising
• Student Success Course
• Dual Enrollment
• Early College High School
“Best Practices”

“While colleges will likely need to adopt some new practices and adapt some older practices, practice-based reforms cannot be the primary work undertaken by colleges participating in Completion by Design.”

Venezia, Bracco, & Nodine 2011
“Best Practices”

Adopting discrete “best practices” and trying to bring them to scale will not work to improve student completion on a substantial scale.

Davis Jenkins

April 2011—CCRC
The Alliance is committed to re-imagining the work we do in two-year institutions and re-inventing how we do it.
Guidelines for Student Success

1. Every student will make a significant connection with another person at the college as soon as possible.
2. Key intake programs including orientation, assessment, advisement, and placement will be integrated and mandatory.
Knowing whether a student will succeed in college requires a holistic understanding of a student’s strengths and vulnerabilities in areas such as motivation, social support, and time management.
What Is SuccessNavigator?

• A 30-minute online assessment for incoming students
• Better placement in college level or developmental courses
• A model for early warning, advising, and acceleration

ets.org/successnavigator
vmonaghan@ets.com
3. Every student will be placed in a “Program of Study” from day one; undecided students will be placed in a mandatory “Program of Study” designed to help them decide.
4. Every student who enrolls to pursue a certificate, degree, or who plans to transfer will work with college personnel to create a Student Success Pathway—a Roadmap to Completion.
Student Success Pathway

Connection
From interest to application

Entry
From enrollment to completion of gatekeeper courses

Progress
From entry to course of study to 75% of requirements completed

Completion
From complete course of study to credential with labor market value
Pathway Components

- Connecting to high schools
- Preparing to begin classes
- Providing remediation
- Providing classroom instruction
- Monitoring first-term progress
- Preparing for subsequent terms
- Preparing for completion & next steps
- Celebrating milestones & completion
Roadmap Project Pathways

- Salt Lake CC—Roadmap Action Plan
- Prince George’s CC—Road to Success
- Lane CC—GPS/Guide to Personal Success
- Miami-Dade—Roadmap to Completion
- Mt. San Antonio CC—Digital Roadmap
- Valencia College—LifeMap
- Harper College—Student Lifecycle
- Indian River—Individual Advising Plan
5. Every student will be carefully monitored throughout the first term to ensure successful progress; the college will make interventions immediately to keep students on track.
6. Students will engage in courses and experiences designed to broaden and deepen their learning.
Employer Views

“To achieve professional and career success in today’s global economy, I would advise a young person to pursue a liberal education.”

Response from 74% of 318 employers in a survey by AAC&U January 2013
Core Mission of Education

In the final analysis our work is about improving and expanding student learning through quality services and quality teaching.

Completion is a valuable by-product of that work.
Ancora Imparo
“Still I Am Learning.”

Michelangelo

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