"What Works" to Support Student Success

Alfredo Gonzalez, Senior Associate, Excelencia in Education
Use Data to Inform Action

Data should be used to improve conditions--not just measure them.
Why focus on Latino student success?

- Census data make clear the Latino population is young, everywhere—and growing!

- Reviewing disaggregated data allows you to better understand and serve all students

- *Excelencia* identified strategies and practices work well with other underserved groups.
EXAMPLES OF ¡Excelencia!

Only data-driven initiative to recognize programs and departments with evidence of effectiveness in accelerating Latino student success at the associate, baccalaureate, and graduate levels.

Nomination Deadline; April 26, 2013

http://www.edexcelencia.org/node/add/nomination
Growing What Works Initiative

**Start** with Examples of *Excelencia*: Collection of evidence-based practices that increase Latino student success in higher education

**Focus** on replicating or bringing these practices to scale.

**Model** behavior of what is possible, even with limited resources

**SEMILLAS**: Seeding Educational Models that Impact and Leverage Latino Academic Success grants

Funded by Walmart and Kresge Foundations
Identified Strategies

1. **Engaging and enrolling** first-generation college-goers, low-income and Latino students (college prep, family outreach, dual enrollment, financial aid literacy).

2. **Integrating services** such as advising, supplemental education, student services, or academic support to improve retention for first-generation college-goers and Latino students.

3. **Facilitating transfer** from two-year to four year institutions.

4. **Engaging** students in the learning process for successful completion through “high impact” academic programs.
5. Practices and activities should relate to the campus culture should be based on or emanate from the culture or “context” of the campus.

6. Faculty, at least some, need to be involved and engaged in order for practices and activities to be successful and sustained over time, a “core” of faculty must see value in them, and be actively involved in “supporting” them.

7. Institutional Leaders must be involved Visible support must be demonstrated by administrative leaders for both, activities, and their relationship to student success.
Promising Practices

• Engaging students as peer tutors and/or organizing student activities.
• Research opportunities for first–year students.
• Special attention to returning students who have completed 90 credits or more.
• Communicating with students in a timely fashion about course progress through appropriate computerized tools.
• Review of institutional procedures.
GWW/SEMILLAS Outcomes

- Increased rates of Latino participation, enrollment, retention, successful transfer, and completion.
- Increased presidential, faculty and staff involvement in Latino student success.
- Increased interaction and communication among offices and departments.
- Fuller and richer [disaggregated] data for tracking student progress and institutional effectiveness.
- Improved efficiency in institutional processes.
Enhanced Institutional Outcomes

• Increased visibility and credibility in the Latino community.
• A more student-centered approach to institutional procedures.
• New relationships and awareness of student effort throughout the institution.
• Additional external funding or in-kind support for some grantees.
Excelencia in Education’s current contributions to increase Latino student success and all students’ success

• **Building knowledge base of effective tactics and programs**
  - Examples of *Excelencia* (www.EdExcelencia.org/examples)
  - Growing What Works database
  - Research and analysis

• **Informing the broader public on efforts**
  - Roadmap for Ensuring America’s Future (65 partners, 7 sectors)
  - 50 State factsheets on Latino College Completion
  - Ensuring America’s Future Benchmarking Guide: 2010 to 2020

• **Increasing engagement and collaboration**
  - Ensuring America’s Future by Increasing Latino College Completion initiative
  - *Excelencia* in Action Network
  - Tools including Latino Student Success Inquiry Model
  - Intermediary for Lumina Latino Student Success effort
Andrea Venezia
Associate Professor, Sacramento State
Associate Director, Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy

WICHE Alliance Meeting
April 3, 2013
Completion by Design

- Funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Supports community colleges to implement reforms that will help more students complete and graduate
- Florida, North Carolina, and Ohio
Game Changer Series

• Purpose of series
• Topics:
  • Acceleration in Developmental Education
  • Providing Structured Pathways
  • Integrating Supports and Academics
Acceleration in Developmental Education

- Why acceleration?
- Principles, strategies, models
- Implementation issues
Providing Structured Pathways

• Why structured pathways?
• Strategies
• Implementation issues
Integrating Supports and Academics

- Why integrate supports and academics?
- Strategies
- Implementation issues
For more information:

http://www.wested.org/cs/we/view/rs/1281

That page includes three other reports for Completion by Design: Connection by Design: Students’ Perceptions of Their Community College Experiences, Changing Course Guide, and Changing Course Planning Tool.

venezia@csus.edu; 916/278-4944