



Connecting the Dots...

Student Success in California Community Colleges

Student Success

- Studies have shown the importance of analyzing and addressing factors that influence success among our students...
 - Especially those students from economically challenged and ethnically diverse backgrounds...

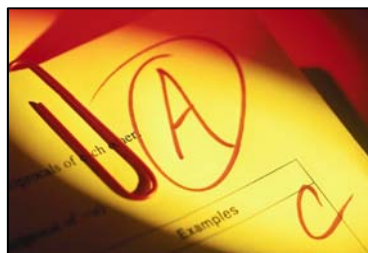
National Initiatives

- **“Preparing to Dream”**
- **“Achieving the Dream”**
- **“Bridges to Opportunity for Underprepared Adults”**
- **Federal Spending Plan for Community Colleges**
 - \$12 Billion over ten years to:
 - Increase graduation rates
 - Better prepare students for jobs
 - Modernize facilities
 - Develop Internet curricula

This Afternoon

We will:

- Address what is meant by student success
- Demonstrate the Cal-PASS SMART Tool
- Provide an overview of the CLASS initiative



Student Success **CALIFORNIA & LOCAL EXPERIENCE**

Why Student Success?

California community colleges are facing extraordinary challenges to meet the critical goal of improving outcomes for all students...

Why Student Success?

The future of California – and of millions of its individual citizens -- depends on the commitment of community colleges to dramatically increase the numbers of students who successfully persist in college, attain credentials, and/or transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

Defining Student Success

- Courses
- Certificates or degrees
- Transfer
- Personal and/or professional growth
- Skills (such as language)
- Student learning outcomes
- Attainment of knowledge
- Improvement in critical thinking
- Improvement in self-esteem and confidence
- Personal goals

State Perspective

- California community colleges serve over 2.9 million students annually
- A significant number of these students never reach their goals...



Student Experiences



- **Success:** Satisfactory completion of coursework / course requirements (e.g. a grade of A, B, C, credit, or pass)
- **Retention:** A student's completion of a given course (regardless of the grade earned)
- **Persistence:** A student's progress towards completion of an educational goal, such as a certificate or degree



- **Basic Skills:** Defined by the Basic Skills Initiative as “those foundation skills in reading, writing, mathematics, and English as a Second Language, as well as learning skills and study skills, which are necessary for students to succeed in college-level work” (California Community College State-Wide Academic Senate, 2006).

Student Success

- 70 to 80% of students enrolled in California community colleges need developmental Mathematics and English courses
- Nearly 1.5 million CCC students enroll in English and Math classes below college level each year...



GCCCD Basic Skills Courses

	CC	GC
Assessed at Basic Skills / Pre-Collegiate Level	71%	63%
Enrolled in Basic Skills / Pre-Collegiate Courses	12%	14%
Percentage of Sections Offered	7%	5%

GCCCD Student Success in Basic Skills

	CC	GC
Overall Success Rate in Basic Skills Courses	63%	59%
Enrollment in Transfer Level Courses	29 - 37%	37 - 51%
Earn a Certificate or Degree	2 - 6%	4 - 5%
Transfer to a Four-Year University	2 - 4%	5 - 8%

Student Success A Community College Priority

Basic Skills Initiative

- The Basic Skills Initiative is an effort to bring about the ability to address improving student success in basic skills and ESL needs through:
 - 1) Information on effective practices
 - 2) Professional development to allow colleges to examine their basic skills and ESL efforts and how to improve them
 - 3) Dollars to allow colleges to act on the first two

Student Success A Community College Priority

Examples of successful strategies:

- Assessment & placement
- Student advising
- Orientation sessions
- Student engagement
- Learning communities
- Tutoring
- Personal development courses
- Course alignment



“Students don’t do optional...”

Improving Student Transition and Success Across Educational Segments

The Cal-PASS Way

How Education is Supposed to Work

- A seamless transition among segments: K-16
- Well prepared students moving through a pipeline
- Little or no remediation as students transition through the segments
- Students prepared with the skills, knowledge and ability to enter the workforce



Troubling Indicators

- High HS drop-out rate
 - Up to 50% in large urban districts
- Poor transition rates to college
 - Of every 100 students that start ninth grade, less than 31 enter college (NCHEMS, 2004)
- Significant remediation needs in higher education
 - 70% Community Colleges
 - Almost 50% in California State Universities
 - Over 30% in University of California

What Created the Disconnect?

- ✓ The segments grew-up differently
- ✓ Three separate systems in California (Silo approach)
- ✓ Different control agencies
- ✓ Different interest groups
- ✓ Different goals
- ✓ Lack of consistent standards across segments
- ✓ Little/no alignment of curriculum
- ✓ The media likes to beat up education

What is Cal-PASS?

- ★ Facilitates collaboration among primary, secondary and post-secondary institutions on a regional basis
- ★ Collects actionable data and reports on student transition and success locally and statewide
- ★ Engages educational leaders and faculty across segments in instructional conversations - The PLC model
- ★ Implements and evaluates educational innovations throughout the state and works to bring to scale those innovations that demonstrate success

Cal-PASS Sponsored Innovations *a Brief List...*

- Math Guides
- GCCCD – SDSU Freshman Composition Alignment
- ACCESS – alignment 11th thru post-secondary
- GUHSD - Superintendent Robert Collins

Grossmont Union High School District

- **Improving Student Success and Transition**
 - Aligned curriculum
 - Mentors
 - Learning Communities
 - Outcomes

Finally – Emerging Areas

- Contract signed with Employment Development Department
- Linking with Child Welfare Data System to track educational outcome of foster youth
- Named Perkins IV (career-Tech ed) provider for California
- Beginning to scale-up innovations regionally and across the state

"Success at Every Level"

SMART Tool Demonstration

- ❖ **Standardized Metrics, Analysis, Reporting and Tracking Tool**
 - Improve access to information
 - Meets Accreditation mandates
 - Provides information on innovations
 - Increase Faculty and Administrators access to actionable information
 - Need to make information actionable
 - Can be applied outside of our system
- ❖ What is it? OLAP (SMART) enables users to perform analysis of data in multiple dimensions, thereby providing the insight and understanding they need for better decision making
- ❖ Web-based for easy access
- ❖ Some training required
- ❖ Roll-out: CC's, K-12/University, cohort tracking
- ❖ [Demonstration](#)



**CALIFORNIA LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE
FOR STUDENT SUCCESS**



Work Collegially to Create a Strategic Focus

- ◆ **Strengthen institutional data collection, analysis and communication capacities**
- ◆ **Build a culture of evidence and data-informed decision-making to support and promote effective practice**
- ◆ **Change organizational culture, structure and staffing patterns to focus on student success**
- ◆ **Design students' educational experiences in purposeful ways, informed by evidence**
- ◆ **Engage a diverse faculty and staff, while also providing for their professional development**



Participants:

Cabrillo College
Chaffey College
College of the Sequoias
Gavilan College
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
Hartnell College
Kern Community College District
Long Beach City College
Los Rios Community College District
Mt. San Antonio College
Napa Valley College
North Orange County Community College District
Pasadena City College
San Jose/Evergreen Community College District



Concern for those futures cannot await “better times,” rather, current conditions call for focus on clear priorities, for collaboration across stakeholder groups, and for decisions based on evidence of what matters most in promoting increased levels of student success.