Defining the 21st Century College Student

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Agenda

• Overview of the role of student affairs (SA) in postsecondary institutions
• Demographic information on the SA profession
• Best practices for increasing partnerships across institutional support services
• Strategies for supporting non-traditional students
• Discussion of how policymakers can influence student and institutional success
NASPA

• NASPA is the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession.
• Our work provides high-quality professional development, advocacy, and research for 15,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and 8 U.S. territories.
Demographic Information - NASPA Members

• 15,000+ individual members
• 1,248 institutional members
• 82 Hispanic Serving Institutions
• 99 institutional members are considered emerging HSIs
• Latino Knowledge Community
What is the role of student affairs?

• We support student success!
• Common functional areas within student affairs divisions include:
  – campus activities
  – student conduct
  – counseling services
  – orientation
  – veteran student services
  – student affairs assessment
The Big Six Issues

- Mental health
- Alcohol abuse prevention
- Drug abuse prevention
- Sexual assault and gender-based violence
- Suicide
- Crisis management
The Really Big Six

- Closing the achievement gap
- Building a socially just campus community
  - Increasing dialogues about race, religion, ethnicity, gender identity
- Increasing civic and democratic engagement
- Helping students develop cross-cutting skills in preparation for career and life
- Bringing personalized learning to scale
  - Develop and leverage technology
- Delivering high-impact practices
Student Support Services – Help Needed

• We have more demand for student services than we have personnel
  – Increased need for mental health counseling
  – Increase in number of student-run organizations
• Effective high-impact practices are not easily scaled
How do we support non-traditional students?

- **Acknowledge their additional commitments**
  - Off-campus employment
  - Family
  - Travel challenges (commuter students)

- **Provide a network of support structures**
  - advising
  - financial aid
  - peer mentoring
Student Support Services – Best Practices

• **Increased internal and external alignment**
  – Since 2004, Oregon State University has participated in the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)
  • Assists students who are migratory or seasonal farmworkers (or children of such workers) enrolled in their first year of undergraduate studies
  • Provides intrusive academic advising, mentors, stipend, and laptop/iPad
Student Support Services – Best Practices

• **OSU CAMP Program Participants:**
  – 66% of the participants’ parents do not have more than an elementary education
  – 10.5% of parents have a high school diploma or equivalent

• **Program Outcomes:**
  – 377 students served throughout Oregon
  – 98% of participants complete their first year of college
Best Practices – continued

• **Partnerships across institutional support services**
  
  – *Whittier College* has several campus-wide initiatives
    
    • Latino speaker series
    • Parent sessions – delivered in Spanish to parents of enrolled students
  
  – Multiple campus units are involved
    
    • Faculty, alumni affairs, student affairs
How can policymakers influence student success?

• **Make data-informed policy decisions**
  – Understand changing student demographics
  – Consider the immediate and long-term effect of policy
    • Example: Some states have considered legislation that would require institutions to provide textbook titles to students earlier.
  – Support additional research
    • Utilize your legislative analysts, institutional research offices, and faculty
How can policymakers influence student success?

• **Consider students’ full college experience**
  – Academic and co-curricular
  – Learning continues when students leave the classroom

• **Promote policies that focus on increased student engagement**
  – Engagement leads to success (persistence, degree completion, readiness for the workforce)

• **Be visible!**
  – Underserved populations need to see role models
Thank You!

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