The Completion Agenda

California Student Success Summit
September 23, 2013

Terry O’Banion
obanion@league.org
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.
Completion Agenda

- President Obama: 5 million more CC grads by 2020
- Lumina: 60% increase by 2025
- Gates: double number of grads
- CC Org: 50% more by 2020
- Utah: 66% 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
“The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has identified the community college as a key player in education and is supporting its role in the national agenda to double the number of low-income young adults who earn a postsecondary credential…. investing $475 million over four years in its Postsecondary Success strategy.”
California Challenges

- Less than 30% of students are college-ready.
- Only 53.6% of degree-seeking students ever achieve that goal.
- Of students who plan to transfer only 41% are successful.
“Recommendations present an opportunity for transformative change that will refocus our system’s efforts and resources to enable a greater number of our students to succeed.”
Key Recommendations

• Increase college & career readiness
• Strengthen support for entering students
• Incentivize successful student behaviors
• Align course offerings to meet student needs
• Improve education of basic skills students
• Align resources with student success recommendations
Question Two

What really works to help students succeed?
Magic Practices

• Learning Communities
• First-Year Experience
• Contextual Instruction
• Project-Based Learning
• Supplemental Instruction
• 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
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.
“Colleges are required to also consider other measures of a student’s ability to succeed, such as academic history and demonstrated motivation.”
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.org
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

**Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**
Pathway Components

Connecting to high schools
Providing classroom instruction
Preparing to begin classes
Monitoring first-term progress
Providing remediation
Preparing for completion & next steps
Preparing for subsequent terms
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
Guidelines for Student Success

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
Access, Success, and Completion: A Primer for Community College Faculty, Administrators, Staff and Trustees
Terry O’Banion

Order from League for Innovation:
• 480-705-8200 ext. 200
• www.league.org/store