

Dear Participants of the National Symposium on Student Retention,

On behalf of the Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange, I want to extend a warm welcome to all the participants, presenters and exhibitors at our fourth national symposium. This year we are meeting in historic Little Rock, where the desegregation of Central High helped opened the doors of education to all citizens. Access and affordability continue to be areas of concern within the higher education community. However, equally important, is the imperative to see that the students who have been accepted into our institutions are equipped and supported in ways that maximize their opportunities for success. I hope that you find this time in Little Rock to be filled with opportunities for learning, sharing, reflecting, and networking around these issues.

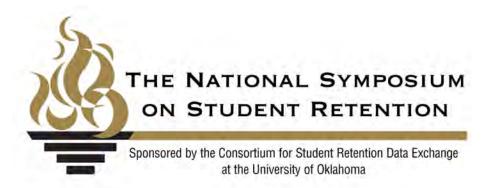
Each year this symposium has grown in the number of participants and in national recognition. This would not have happened without the contributions of those of you who submitted papers. We are very appreciative of the time and expertise contributed by the conference presenters. We cannot address student retention issues within a vacuum and your contributions help broaden horizons and perspectives. During our time together, participants will have the opportunity to learn about best practices and meritorious programs. Presentations will also be made on research related to retention theory, retention efforts with special populations, and looking beyond the first year retention.

Obviously, there are more interesting presentations than one person can attend. This is the type of problem that is good to have at a conference. To help you manage that dilemma, each participant will find a CD in their welcome bag that contains the published *Proceedings of the Fourth Annual National Symposium on Student Retention*. In the proceedings you will find copies of the peer reviewed papers that were approved for presentation, in addition to abstracts on workshops and posters.

In addition to the formal programming, we encourage you to use the breaks, meals, and evening activities as opportunities to identify colleagues with common interests and develop professional contacts.

Thank you for your participation. See you next year in Buffalo.

Rosemary Hayes, Ph.D. Executive Director



SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 2, 2009

The National Symposium on Student Retention provides a forum for executive decision makers, institutional researchers, student services personnel, and faculty to share the most current research and effective practices related to student retention and success.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Abstracts Due: February 6, 2009 • Final Papers Due: May 15, 2009

Three of the papers chosen for presentation will receive cash awards

Presentations which address evidence based retention strategies in two-year or four-year institutions are encouraged. All papers will be peer reviewed. Accepted papers will be presented at the symposium and published in the conference proceedings. Information on topics and submission and presentation requirements will be made available at the Symposium Web site.

THE CITY

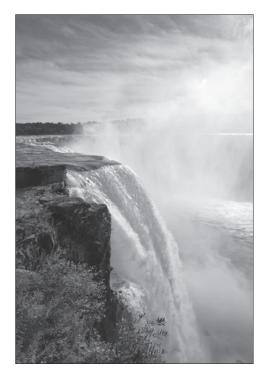
BUFFALO is the second largest city in New York State. Attractions include the Niagara Falls State Park; the historic Buffalo Zoo; five Frank Lloyd Wright homes; a park system designed by the father of American landscape architecture, Frederick Law Olmsted; the Michigan Avenue Heritage Corridor, a new tourism destination that highlights the city's role as a pivotal stop on the Underground Railroad; and the terminus of the Erie Canal – the most important ditch in American history. It's a short drive from our hotel into Canada, so be sure your passport is up to date!

THE HOTEL

ADAM'S MARK BUFFALO-NIAGARA is in downtown Buffalo's Waterfront district and is easily accessible to every major local route and to the area attractions. It is a classic three-diamond hotel with free high-speed Internet in every room, free indoor pool and fitness center, great dining and cocktail service in three different venues and 24-hour room service.

THE DETAILS

For more information, contact us by calling 405.325.2158 or email csrde@ou.edu. Full details on the papers, speakers and topics of the symposium will be posted as they are confirmed on our Website: http://csrde.ou.edu/web/symposium/





See you there!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ι	•		DATA EXCHANGE	
II	KEY TO SYMBOLS			3
III	CONFERENCE SCHEDULE			
	Sunday, September 28	4:00-7:00	Registration	
	Monday, September 29	7:00-6:30	Registration	
		8:30-4:30	Pre-conference Workshops	4-6
		5:00-5:30	Welcome Address	6
		5:30-6:30	Keynote Address	6
		6:30-8:00	Welcome Reception	7
	Tuesday, September 30	7:00-5:00	Registration	
		7:00-8:00	Opening Refreshments	7
		8:15-9:30	Plenary Address	8
		9:40-10:30	Concurrent Sessions	8-12
		10:30-10:50	Morning Break	
		10:50-11:40	Concurrent Sessions	13-16
		11:50-1:30	Luncheon and Plenary Address	16
		1:40-2:30	Concurrent Sessions	17-20
		2:30-2:50	Afternoon Break	
		2:50-4:40	Concurrent/Poster Sessions	20-33
		6:00-9:00	Evening Event: Dinner Theatre	33
	Wednesday, October 1	7:00-12:00	Registration	
		7:00-8:00	Opening Refreshments	34
		8:00-9:15	Plenary Address	34
		9:30-10:20	Concurrent Sessions	35-37
		10:20-10:40	Morning Break	
		10:40-11:30	Concurrent Sessions	38-41
		11:40-12:00	Closing Remarks and Awards	41
IV	LOCATION MAP			42-43
v	LIST OF EXHIBITORS			44-45

BENEFITS OF CSRDE MEMBERSHIP

Access benchmarks that make sense

 Because we collect not only retention and graduation data, but also institutional and student characteristics shown to be related to student success, our member institutions receive customized peer reports which help them place retention and graduation rates within an appropriate context. You don't just get data; you get actionable information that is not available from any other source.

More comprehensive data

By tracking multiple cohorts of freshmen over time, we overcome the limitations of using IPEDS data
for ongoing assessment and evaluation. The 2008-09 IPEDS data collection will include graduation
rates for the cohort of 2002. Since that group was first admitted, six other freshman cohorts will have
entered the pipeline. The CSRDE reports include detailed data on all of these students and allow
members to assess their progress as compared to peer institutions and national trends.

Respond with confidence to internal and external requests for accountability measures

 With many external entities expressing interest in accountability in higher education, your participation in the Consortium demonstrates your institution's proactive efforts to self monitor and review progress.

Maximize your resources and receive rapid access to the most current retention and graduation data and research

- By acting as the central reporting site, the Consortium office handles all the data collection, data auditing, internal consistency checking, analysis, formatting and reporting to member institutions, saving you time and money.
- You'll receive the results of your participation in one of our retention surveys within three months of submission. Our online reporting system gives members immediate access to customized, detailed reports on peer institutions, as well as unlimited ad-hoc summary level information.

Continue your education

The Consortium hosts a monthly Webinar series as part of its commitment to offering professional
continuing education opportunities to its members. A cost effective way to stay on top of current
research, each Webinar registration makes it possible for one person or a whole auditorium of
administrators, faculty and staff to become more informed on topics of interest.

Interact with other professionals in higher education that share your interests

- Our annual National Symposium on Student Retention offers attendees a complete educational
 experience and explores the latest evidence based research on issues impacting student success.
 The intimate and content-focused environment of our conference encourages collaboration and
 networking among professionals in the field. Representatives of CSRDE institutions receive a
 substantial discount on registration fees.
- We actively encourage our members to share innovative retention programs and initiatives, and each
 year we highlight the best of these at our Symposium with our CSRDE Best Practices Award, the
 Institutional Research Leadership in Student Retention Award, and the Director's Award.
- Members maintain the connection throughout the year with our online Effective Retention Practices
 Knowledgebase, which allows them to retrieve the latest peer reviewed research and model retention
 strategies. We also maintain regular communication with our members through quarterly newsletters
 and monthly e-news.

How You Can Join the CSRDE

- Visit our Website to request membership information: http://csrde.ou.edu
- **Review** the materials, choose the right membership level for your institution, and designate an institutional contact.
- Submit the membership registration and payment forms along with your payment

Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE)

The University of Oklahoma Outreach 1700 Asp Avenue Norman, OK 73072 Phone: (405) 325-2158

Fax: (405) 325-7309 Email: csrde@ou.edu Website: http://csrde.ou.edu



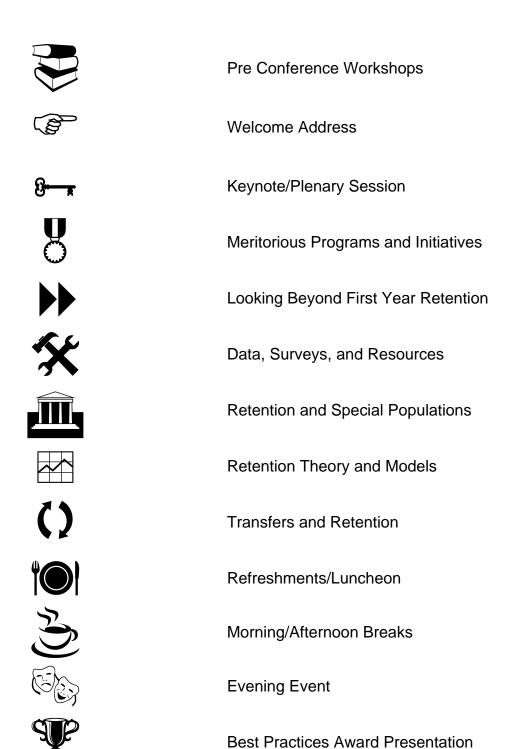
We offer three levels of membership to meet your institution's needs. Below are highlights of each level.

Level One	Level Two	Level Three
Two Institutional Membership contacts	Three Institutional Membership contacts	Three Institutional Membership contacts
One Webinar selection	Three Webinar selections	Six webinar selections
One customized, detailed peer report	One customized, detailed peer report	One customized, detailed peer report
	Unlimited online summary level reports	Unlimited online summary level reports
		Unlimited online summary reports on self- selected peer groups

Full descriptions of Webinars are available at http://csrde.ou.edu

DATE	TITLE
October 22, 2008	Validity of the SAT for Predicting First-Year College Grade Point Average/ Differential Validity and Prediction by Subgroup
November 12, 2008	Financial Blocks, Demographics, and Student Success
December 10, 2008	Empirical Insights into STEM Retention of Targeted Students: A Social Cognitive Approach
December 10, 2000	Empirical margina into or Elvi Noternion or rangeted diddents. A doctal dogrillave Approach
January 14, 2009	The Relationships Between Part-Time Faculty Utilization and Student Learning Outcomes and Retention: Implications for Practice
February 11, 2009	College Readiness = College Success Beyond the First Year
March 11, 2009	No Student Falls Through the Cracks: A Catholic Approach to Retention
April 8, 2009	Modeling Student Academic Success: Does Usage of Campus Recreation Facilities Make a Difference?
May 13, 2009	Serving Undergraduate Transfer Students and Improving their Retention: The Transfer Center at the University of Utah
luno 10, 2000	Need Levitz National Decease Departs Leaking at Freehman Attitudes
June 10, 2009	Noel-Levitz National Research Report: Looking at Freshman Attitudes
July 15, 2009	Retention Partners: Early Alert Student Referral System & Academic Accountability Counseling - Making Every Contact Count!
August 12, 2009	Predicting Success of Academically Dismissed Undergraduate Students Using Quality Point Status
September 9, 2009	Making the Most of Academic Mentoring

Key to Symbols



Pre-Conference Workshops (separate registration required)

8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Room: Manning



Title: Early Alert and Warning Programs: An Intentional Approach to Ensuring Student

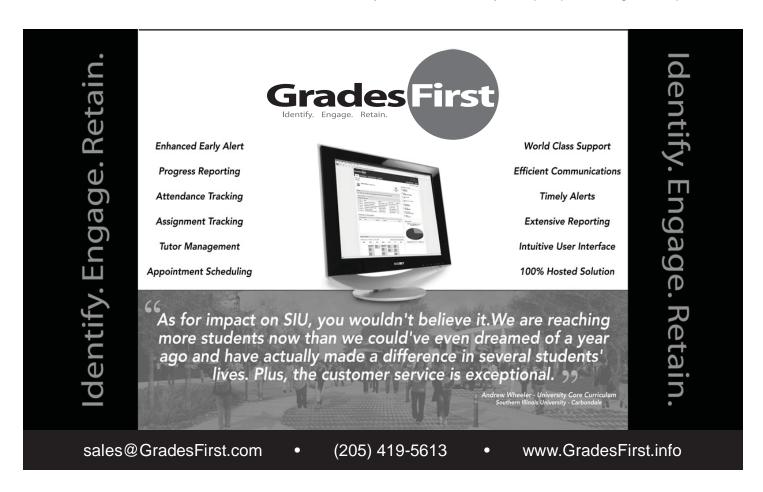
Success and Persistence

Track: Workshop

Audience Level: Pre-Conference Workshop Registrants Only

Brandon Miller, Baylor University

Abstract: This workshop will provide essential information to administrators, enrollment managers, faculty and professional advisors for designing and implementing a comprehensive and collaborative early alert and intervention program for their own respective campuses. Specific topics that will be addressed in this presentation include: description of key components of an early warning system, overview of relevant literature as well as existing early alert/intervention programs, methods for recruiting, training, maintaining communications with key stakeholders, techniques for engaging students in the process of grade recovery and planning for future success, as well as a discussion of assessment models that identify students most likely to depart prior to degree completion.



8:30 am - 12:00 pm Room: Salon A & B

Title: Retention For Rookies

Track: Workshop

Audience Level: Pre-Conference Workshop Registrants Only

Tim Culver, Noel-Levitz, Inc.

Abstract: You've just been named coordinator of student retention at your institution-now what? Retention for Rookies is intended to give you a solid orientation about the retention field. Learn basic retention concepts. Identify resources that can help you evaluate the current state of affairs at your institution. Discover retention strategies that get results at two-year and four-year institutions and learn the best ways to plan for programs by laying the groundwork for success and gaining faculty support. A good starter course for those of you who have recently been told that "retention and student success" have been added to your responsibilities.

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Room: Hoffman



Title: Data and Decisions to Support Student Success

Track: Workshop

Audience Level: Pre-Conference Workshop Registrants Only

Gerry McLaughlin, DePaul University Josetta McLaughlin, Roosevelt University Rich Howard, University of Minnesota

Abstract: Increasingly, college and university leaders base strategic decisions on data. The ability to access, analyze, and convert data into strategic information is critical for institutions to remain competitive with other institutions. This full day workshop will focus on ways to identify peer and competitive institutions, define key institutional performance measures related to retention and compare relative positions on these measures with other institutions. A team approach will be used in this workshop, so senior management and their institutional researchers are encouraged to sign up together for this workshop for maximum benefit.

1:00 pm - 4:30 pm **Room:** Manning



Title: Building Partnerships that Transform: Community Colleges and Four-Year

Institutions' Alliances that Foster Student Success

Track: Workshop

Audience Level: Pre-Conference Workshop Registrants Only

Mark Poisel, University of Central Florida Charlene Stinard, University of Central Florida

Abstract: Partnerships are the key to any successful venture when it comes to helping transfer students make a seamless transition to the next institution. Learn how one institution has spent years developing internal and external partnerships to build programs, enhance services, and strengthen relationships that positively impact transfer students as they experience new environments and continue to pursue their academic programs. Successful transfer programs are more than just articulation agreements and the workshop will discuss how to build a comprehensive transfer program that supports transfer student success through preparation, transition, and progression to graduation.

Opening Sessions

5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Room



Room: Salon A & B

Title: Welcome Address

Rosemary Hayes, CSRDE, The University of Oklahoma

Abstract: Thank you for joining us at the 4th Annual National Symposium on Student Retention! Please gather in Salon A & B. Let's get it started!

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm **Room:** Salon A & B



Title: College Students: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Track: Keynote Address

Belle Wheelan, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

Belle Wheelan's career in higher education spans 35 years and includes the roles of faculty member, chief student services officer, campus provost, college president, state Secretary of Education and CEO of a regional accrediting body. With a healthy dose of humor, she will look back at the changes in students and strategies institutions have used to relate to them over those years.

6:30 pm - 8:00 p.m. Room: Salon C Grand



You are invited to enjoy friendship and refreshments with us.

Tuesday, September 30, 2008

7:00 am - 8:00 am **Room**: Salon A & B Foyer



Join us for coffee and bagels before the plenary session.

Dissatisfied with Your Institution's Retention and Graduation Rates?

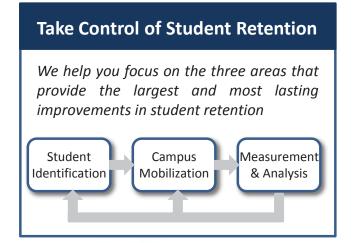
Increasing student retention and graduation rates can be expensive and futile if you don't know:

- why students leave
- when they give up
- who responds to support them
- which of your retention resources work and which ones don't

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Morning Plenary

8:15 am - 9:30 am

Room: Salon A & B

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le: The 4Ps of Retention: A Framework for Research and Results

Track: Plenary Address

David Kalsbeek, DePaul University

Despite extensive research and analysis and the commitment of extraordinary time and resources, most campuses find it difficult to improve overall graduation rates. In this plenary address, Dr. Kalsbeek will outline his framework for retention strategy, one that not only focuses the research agenda but also provides a structure and strategic orientation required for institutional impact. The 4Ps comprise a heuristic framework that challenges the common, prevailing perspectives that typically define the retention challenge and hamper institutional attempts to address it. It's a framework that helps institutional leaders think differently about retention and integrate retention strategy with a fuller spectrum of the institution's efforts.

Concurrent Sessions

9:40 am - 10:30 am Room: Manning



Title: A Systemic View of Academic Achievement, Academic Progress, and Degree

Completion: A Longitudinal Study

Track: Looking Beyond First Year Retention

Audience Level: Advanced

Julie Noble, ACT, Inc.
Paul Turman, South Dakota Board of Regents
Justine Radunzel, ACT, Inc.

Abstract: The Board of Regents governing a Midwestern state's six public universities currently requires students to meet established qualifying CAAP scores before graduation. Moreover, colleges and departments within each institution use CAAP results to facilitate critical modifications to curricular processes, placement guidelines, and remediation, and to document the value-added benefits of students' first two years of college.

This study investigated factors associated with college student achievement and proficiency, value-added achievement, progress to degree, and degree completion at these institutions across six years, within the context of students' prior achievement and college readiness. College readiness was found to be

A Systemic View continued...

directly related to end of year 2 academic achievement, progress, and to proficiency and value-added achievement. Proficiency and value-added achievement were directly related to achievement and progress beyond year 2; progress beyond year 2 was directly related to graduation within 6 years. Value-added achievement models for research intensive and comprehensive institutions differed. Differences were found between the two types in the missions of the institutions, and the entering academic achievement levels and needs for remediation of their students.

Results include the relative contributions of various factors to degree completion. Recommendations focus on ways to improve the existing state accountability system, with an emphasis on identifying institutional policies that might contribute to student progress as they make the transition from secondary to postsecondary education.

9:40 am - 10:30 am

Room: Lafayette



Title: CSRDE: What's it all about?

Track: Data, Surveys, and Resources

Audience Level: Introductory

Sandra Whalen, CSRDE, The University of Oklahoma

Abstract: The Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange began in 1994 as a collaboration among Institutional Researchers who were interested in benchmarking student retention. Since then it has grown into a research consortium of almost 600 institutions. The consortium members benchmark the retention and graduation rates of community college students, community college transfers into the 4yr institution, baccalaureate degree seekers, and STEM majors. We've gone beyond swapping data to sharing knowledge by sponsoring the National Symposium on Student Retention and our annual monthly webinar series on the most current research. Come learn more about the CSRDE and about how the CSRDE can support your efforts to improve student success.

9:40 am - 10:30 am Room: Ouachita



Title: Expertise-development mentoring: A case study of an intervention to improve

first-generation college freshmen's academic performance and retention

Track: Retention and Special Populations

Audience Level: Intermediate

Peter Collier, Portland State University Collin Fellows, Portland State University

Abstract: Expertise development mentoring provides new students with useful information about "what to do in order to succeed at the university", insights into the culture of higher education, and tips on how to become "more expert" students. This form of mentoring goes beyond informing students about the range of support services available on campus, providing scripts for how to use specific campus resources appropriately as well as strategies for key campus interactions. In this paper we examine the effectiveness of this approach through a case study of a U.S. Department of Education FIPSE Program-funded intervention designed to improve first-generation student academic success and retention at Portland State University, the Students First Mentoring Project (SFMP). After describing the key elements of this intervention, along with the underlying conceptual model, we present two years (2005-2007) of program results to establish that the program positively impacts first-generation student's academic performance and persistence. We conclude by discussing the implications of this successful expertise-development mentoring program for first generation students and the colleges and universities seeking to support these students.

9:40 am - 10:30 am

Room: Hoffman

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Title: Modeling Success of Freshmen Transfer Students

Track: Transfers and Retention

Audience Level: Intermediate

Jaclyn Cameron, DePaul University Gerry McLaughlin, DePaul University

Abstract: There has been much discussion concerning freshmen transfer students and their swirling, churning enrollment patterns. Also freshmen transfers are seen as one of the most at-risk student groups, with first year retention and six year graduation rates considerably below those of traditional freshmen. Unfortunately, most research on first year success has focused on traditional freshmen with little regard for freshmen transfers. This research will model the first year experience of the freshman transfer student using success measures of academic performance and persistence. Analyses will include exploring first quarter outcomes given pre-entering characteristics and first quarter academics; second quarter outcomes using first quarter outcomes and second quarter academics; and first-year outcomes given first three quarter outcomes and overall academic characteristics. SPSS AnswerTree, using Exhaustive CHAID,

Modeling Success continued...

will be the primary methodology. Variables in the investigation will include measures such as high school GPA, ACT scores, college GPA, credit hours earned, total transfer hours, and specific coursework known to affect academic progress. The intent is to identify early indicators of enrollment outcomes to support intervention and to determine which subgroups of students may be more or less at-risk overall.

9:40 am - 10:30 am





Title: Tackling the Drop-Out Rates: Strategies to Improve Persistence in Three Ontario Community Colleges

Track: Meritorious Programs and Initiatives

Audience Level: Intermediate

Fiona Bain-Greenwood, Seneca College Yves Y. Pelletier, Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation

Abstract: Many post-secondary institutions are recording increasing enrollment rates, vet, these rates mask a common struggle; the high number of students who drop-out of their program of study. At some Ontario community colleges, almost 50 percent of students who enroll do not persist until graduation. Research shows the many reasons why students drop out of higher education institutions, but few initiatives try to identify these students before they actually leave. Foundations for Success, a pilot project involving 2,000 randomly assigned participants sponsored by the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation in partnership with Confederation College, Mohawk College, and Seneca College, aims to test whether case manager-facilitated access to a combination of academic support, career education, mentoring, and financial incentives will increase the likelihood that students perceived at-risk of dropping out of college will persist and successfully complete their studies. This paper will argue that students deemed at-risk of not completing their program of study are more likely to engage in student support services if these services are coupled with a case management approach and a financial incentive. Preliminary results after one semester indicate a grade point average differential of 11% of students in the two treatment groups in relation to the control group.

9:40 am - 10:30 am Room: Chicot



Title: The University of Cincinnati's "SUCCESS CHALLENGE": Placing Student Success at the Center- Enabling In-State At-Risk Students to Successfully Earn Baccalaureate Degrees in a Timely Fashion

Track: Meritorious Programs and Initiatives

Audience Level: Intermediate

Maria Palmieri, University of Cincinnati Caroline Miller, University of Cincinnati Caroline Alikonis, University of Cincinnati Neal Stark, University of Cincinnati

Abstract: The University of Cincinnati (UC) is a large, urban research institution that currently enrolls 18,875 baccalaureate-seeking students on its Uptown campus. In 2000, UC began participating in the "Success Challenge" grant sponsored by the Ohio Board of Regents. "Success Challenge" is aimed at increasing retention and graduation rates of baccalaureate students who possess a lower chance of succeeding due to their cultural, socioeconomic or academic background. Since its inception, UC's "Success Challenge" program has had significant impact on the academic success of its participants. This is evidenced by increased retention rates for at-risk students and for the University as a whole (from 73% to 82% since 2000). Graduation rates have improved from 48% to 52% for the 1998 and 2001 entering classes, respectively, and to 57% for "Success Challenge" program participants. UC has the third highest percentage of Pell-eligible students among research extensive campuses. Pell-eligible students from both the 2000 and 2001 graduation cohorts were approximately twice as likely to graduate as non-"Success Challenge" Pell-eligible participants. Here we introduce UC's "Success Challenge" programs and present evidencebased research demonstrating these programs are having a positive impact on the academic success of at-risk University of Cincinnati students.

Morning Break

10:30 am - 10:50 am



Take a break from the activities and have a drink as you network with your colleagues. The break area will be located in the Foyer area.

Concurrent Sessions (continued)

10:50 am - 11:40 am Room: Lafayette



Title: An Overview of Developmental Education in Arkansas: Practices, Costs, and a

Model Approach

Track: Retention and Special Populations

Audience Level: Introductory

Rhonda Carroll, Pulaski Technical College Lily Kersh, U of Arkansas Community College - Morrilton Ellen Sullivan, Pulaski Technical College Mark Fincher, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Abstract: This paper examines the origins of developmental education and explores the way developmental education is administered at selected colleges in Arkansas. The paper focuses on a model Career Pathways Initiative program at University of Arkansas Community College-Morrilton.

10:50 am - 11:40 am Room: Manning



Title: BAM I, BAM II, and BAM@NITE

Becoming a Mulerider, Being a Mulerider, and BAM at Night

Track: Meritorious Programs and Initiatives

Audience Level: Advanced

Sarah Jennings, Southern Arkansas University Donna Allen, Southern Arkansas University Shelly Whaley, Southern Arkansas University J. Courson, Southern Arkansas University Sandra Smith, Southern Arkansas University

Abstract: BAM is a unique orientation program that encompasses much more than a typical orientation program. Backed by preliminary research findings, this new twist on a traditional orientation has proven successful. It follows a holistic approach to beginning the University experience. By offering appropriate sessions for specialized populations along with the services to enhance these sessions, individual needs are met. Specialized populations include beginning freshmen, transfer students, and nontraditional students. In addition to these specialized populations, the vital role of parents is embraced and addressed in both segmented and combined sessions. Academic expectations, transitions to college, utilizing a BAM Facebook group, housing, freshmen seminar, student activities, academic and developmental advising, financial aid, billing, technology, participation in a mentoring program (mentors attend program), and other areas of orientation are combined into one cohesive program. Services are provided for each group as part of the overall program such as child care for students with

BAM I, BAM II, and BAM@NITE continued...

children, and evening sessions. Anecdotal and formal evaluations indicate a high level of satisfaction and increased comfort level as students begin their University experience. Participants will receive retention statistics, detailed program information, timeline and outline guide for implementation, as well as practical tips for day-to-day operation of the program.

10:50 am - 11:40 am Room: Chicot



Title: Beyond the First Year Retention: The Graduation Initiative

Track: Looking Beyond First Year Retention

Audience Level: Introductory

Patricia Glenn, University of Texas at San Antonio Clint Rodenfels, University of Texas at San Antonio

Abstract: The University of Texas at San Antonio has spent the last ten years developing a highly effective suite of retention programs targeting freshmen and sophomores. To extend the reach of these student success programs, the Graduation Initiative (GI) was created in 2007. The Graduation Initiative completed its first year of operation in June, 2008. Within that short time, the following has been accomplished: 1. GI Analysts assigned to specific colleges researched barriers to graduation and, along with college stakeholders. developed Graduation Improvement Plans specifically tailored to the barriers discovered. 2. Staff of the Initiative also developed an institution-wide Graduation Improvement Plan, delivered to the Provost in July, 2008. The institutional plan incorporates the barriers shared across the colleges, as well as barriers only addressable at the institutional level. 3. GI Analysts have worked with seniors overdue for their four-year graduation, completing tailored progress plans with them and following their semester progress to five or six-year graduation. Last but not least, the GI has helped to increase the six-year graduation rate from 28.2% in 2006 to 31.3% in 2007, the largest increase ever measured at UTSA. Next year's goals include implementation of graduation improvement plans, outreach to employers and money management services.

10:50 am - 11:40 am Room: Hoffman



Title: Enhancing Campus Retention Studies: Predicting 4 and 6 Year Degree

Attainment with Institutional and Freshman Survey Data

Track: Retention Theory and Models

Audience Level: Introductory

Linda DeAngelo, Higher Education Research Institute

Abstract: This session will focus on how campus retention studies can be improved through the use of a combination of data collected during the

Enhancing Campus Retention Studies continued...

admissions process and data from a freshman survey, such as the Cooperative Institutional Research Program's (CIRP) Freshman Survey. A 2005 national longitudinal study of 4 and 6 year degree attainment completed at the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI), where the CIRP is housed will be used to review the variables/constructs that need to be accounted for in order for an institution to gauge the effectiveness of its retention program(s). This study utilized data collected from 262 baccalaureate-granting institutions who participated in the CIRP Freshman Survey in 1994. The session will also include a demonstration of the prediction equations developed as a result of the study and will show how these equations can be used to study retention at the institutional level. The goal of this session is to assist institutions to create more precise measures of expected retention.

10:50 am - 11:40 am Room: Ouachita



Title: Methodology for Developing Student Success Data Warehouse

Track: Data, Surveys, and Resources

Audience Level: Advanced

Indira Govindan, Fairleigh Dickinson University

Abstract: In 2005, the Metropolitan Campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University established the Student Success Team to make recommendations for improving its undergraduate retention and graduation rates. From the beginning, the committee agreed that its work would be (1) research and data-driven, (2) continuous and ongoing, (3) action-oriented and (4) focused on freshmen and beyond. Called upon to support the work of the Success Committee, the office of Institutional Research developed a comprehensive retention data warehouse from multiple data sources including the institutional student records, student surveys of expectations, experiences and engagement, data-exchange consortium and national and state agencies. The theoretical framework for this broad collection of data was derived from current and established research on factors influencing student persistence such as, academic preparation and performance, psycho-social factors, academic and social engagement, campus environment and socio-economic characteristics. The use of this data has not only enabled the committee to steer the discussion away from anecdotes and personal opinions but also to uncover problem areas and to take follow-up actions for student success.

10:50 am - 11:40 am Room: Grampas



Title: Turning the Revolving Door into the Staircase of Academic Success for Basic

Skills Students

Track: Meritorious Programs and Initiatives

Audience Level: Intermediate

Paula Yanish, Aims Community College Marti Demarest, Aims Community College

Abstract: Aims Community College introduced a new program entitled Emerging Scholars in fall 2007 to serve underprepared students and improve retention rates for this population. Specifically, the program was established to assist incoming, degree/certificate-seeking students who placed into at least two levels of remediation (English/math, math/reading, reading/English) with adjustment to college issues and successfully transitioning to college-level courses. Contained within this paper is a description of the evolution of this program including national, state, and institutional trend data; the theoretical framework for the program; program elements; results; and implications for practice.

Luncheon and Afternoon Plenary

11:50 am - 1:30 pm Room: Salon A & B



Title: Luncheon with Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe

Join us for lunch followed by a presentation from Governor Mike Beebe entitled "Education is Economic Development".

Arkansas ranks 49th in the number of adults over the age of 25 who hold college degrees, and this single statistic may represent our greatest economic/development challenge. Simply put, we lack qualified applicants for the jobs of the 21st century, and we must address that deficiency or Arkansas will continue to be left behind.

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

1:40 pm - 2:30 pm

Room: Lafayette



Title: Innovations at the CSRDE

Track: Data, Surveys, and Resources

Audience Level: Introductory

Blake Cannon, CSRDE, The University of Oklahoma

Abstract: This session will showcase some of the new technologies that have been integrated into the CSRDE. It will go through the alert checker that was implemented two years ago to aid in the survey collection process. There will also be discussions and demonstrations of the new peer tool that is used for peer reports and summary reports, and webinars which are a new way to get useful information to higher education colleagues across the nation. Whether you are a member of CSRDE and want to better understand how to use these tools or you just want to get a better understanding of the technologies that are offered by CSRDE, come and take a look at what we're doing.

1:40 pm - 2:30 pm

Room: Hoffman



Title: Is There Such a Thing as Too Much of A Good Thing When It Comes to Education? Reexamining First Generation Student Success

Track: Retention and Special Populations

Audience Level: Intermediate

Mary Lou D'Allegro, Penn State Berks Stefanie Kerns, Penn State Berks

Abstract: Data mining and statistical analyses at a less selective institution reveal that the relationships between parents' educational level and some first year success indicators are not linear. Specifically, students who report that either parent or guardian(s) have an educational level beyond a baccalaureate degree or do not report parent education level fair worse in most first year success indicators as well as some pre-college enrollment characteristics than those students whose either parent or guardian(s) have some college or a baccalaureate degree. Mathematics SAT, Critical Reading SAT, placement tests, first semester credits attempted, first semester credits earned, first semester GPA, and one-year retention means among students grouped by five parent education levels are assessed. In addition to the findings, variable construction, definition of first generation students, exploratory analyses, inferential statistics, and predictive models are discussed. Ordinary least squares (OLS) and logistic and regression techniques, limits, and appropriateness of these techniques are investigated.

1:40 pm - 2:30 pm **Room:** Chicot



Title: Male Student Perception of Academic Persistence in a Predominantly White Southern Rural University (WSRU): Men a Diverse Group in Higher Education

Track: Looking Beyond First Year Retention

Audience Level: Introductory

Tracy Mims, Delta State University

Abstract: The graduation rate over the past 30 years of students entering a tertiary educational setting (post-secondary institution) has plummeted to a consistent hold at the 50% mark because students depart higher education institutions prior to receiving a degree (Educational Policy Institute, 2003). According to Astin and Oseguera (2005) student withdrawal rates vary considerably crosswise institutions. This study explored the differences in perception of White and Black male students regarding academic persistence at a predominantly White Southern Rural University (WSRU). The explanatory variables in the study are social integration, academic integration and personal factors. The findings highlight that the institutional climate for a sense of belonging regarding male students had a significant difference amid groups. The results have implications both for enhancing institutional policies pertaining to student retention and instructive to administrators on this critical issue.

1:40 pm - 2:30 pm



Room: Grampas

Title: Pairing Creative Scholarships and Programming to Enhance Student

Persistence

Track: Meritorious Programs and Initiatives

Audience Level: Intermediate

Beth Barnette, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis Rebecca Porter, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

Abstract: IUPUI (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis), an urban, four-year public university, has applied the lessons learned from a history of successfully utilizing scholarships as a recruitment tool to address improving student retention. In an effort to positively impact student persistence, several creative initiatives have been implemented that utilize scholarships as retention tools. Scholarships range from the IUPUI Road Scholars (free parking for high academic performance) to the IUPUI Pell Pledge (assures Pell recipients receive funding to cover full tuition and fees). Most of these programs combine consideration of academic merit and financial need to determine eligibility. More importantly, some programs are linked to vital transition and retention campus programming as part of the scholarship requirements. This unique programmatic aspect enables the university to provide students with the larger support network needed to better support student success.

1:40 pm - 2:30 pm **Room:** Ouachita



Title: The Attack of the Killer Courses: How Course Taking Patterns Affect Retention

Track: Retention Theory and Models

Audience Level: Intermediate

Jaclyn Cameron, DePaul University

Abstract: Previous research has shown that student preparedness and performance in specific academic subjects, namely mathematics, can affect student persistence. This research attempts to go beyond math performance and identify specific courses and subjects that are detrimental to academic success. Additionally, this research investigates the course taking patterns of both traditional freshmen and community college transfers in an effort to distinguish unique problem courses or subjects within each group. Since first vear GPA is one of the best predictors of first year retention, if institutions can better understand what goes into first year GPAs, students can be better advised on how to navigate through known academic pitfalls. Killer courses are courses which have a high proportion of students earning grades below C- and/or withdrawing. This research will identify first year killer courses for entering freshmen and community college students. Performance in, and number of, killer courses taken will be used to investigate impact on first year retention. Failing, retaking or withdrawing from courses stalls time to degree and can have a severe impact on financial aid. Thus, the intent of this research is to better inform the first year academic experience and how it relates to persistence.

1:40 pm - 2:30 pm



Room: Manning

Title: The Rural Community College Challenge: Mesabi Range Community and Technical College Leads the Way in Student Retention

Track: Meritorious Programs and Initiatives

Audience Level: Intermediate

Jeff Gregg, Mesabi Range Community and Technical College Lindsay Lahti, Mesabi Range Community and Technical College Jennifer Willard, Mesabi Range Community and Technical College

Abstract: Small, rural community and technical colleges face critical retention issues. Three factors present unique challenges in northeast Minnesota. First, five separate colleges, in bulls-eye spatial enrollment patterns, compete for the same students in a homogenous geographical area. Secondly, northeast Minnesota is challenged with re-training an aging workforce. The expectation is that 75,000 new jobs will be opening in various occupations critical to our economy. Thirdly, the great preponderance of technical campus students are designated special populations, and we must be sensitive to the barriers that such students face when enrolling and persisting in college.

In order to meet these challenges Mesabi Range Community and Technical College (MRCTC) charged the Student Services staff with providing strategic

The Rural Community College Challenge continued...

coordination to ensure student success. This paper addressed a number of initiatives that resulted in increased retention rates.

Afternoon Break

2:30 pm - 2:50 pm



Take a break from the activities and have a drink as you network with your colleagues. The break areas will be located in the Foyer area.

Concurrent Sessions (continued)

2:50 pm - 3:40 pm



Room: Grampas

Title: College Readiness and College Success: The CSRDE - ACT Partnership

Track: Looking Beyond First Year Retention

Audience Level: Advanced

Julie Noble, ACT, Inc. Justine Radunzel, ACT, Inc.

Abstract: Using data for over 90,000 students from 33 CSRDE institutions participating in the CSRDE-ACT partnership, we examine selected college outcomes over time (up to six years), including annual retention, annual cumulative GPA, progress to degree (earned credit hours), and degree completion within five years. Five sets of college readiness indicators are used as predictors, alone and in combination: high school mathematics and science coursework taken, high school GPA, taking/not taking the ACT-recommended core curriculum (four years of English and three years each of math, social studies, and science), and meeting the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. College outcomes are also examined by race/ethnicity, gender, and family income. Multiple statistical methods are used, including hierarchical modeling, discrete-time survival analysis, and descriptive analyses. Where possible, results are disaggregated for two-year and four-year institutions. This presentation will conclude with a discussion of the importance of college readiness, its implications for college success, and the use of readiness indicators and alternative statistical methods to identify students at risk for dropping out.

2:50 pm - 3:40 pm **Room:** Chicot



Title: Finding the "Bleeding Spots": How to Identify At-risk Groups

Track: Data, Surveys, and Resources

Audience Level: Intermediate

Jing Wang, California State University, Sacramento Tamara Lapointe, California State University, Sacramento

Abstract: Building cohort tracking files is an essential aspect of validating data and conducting reliable studies. The Office of Institutional Research has constructed First-time Freshman cohort files that track student enrollment and degree status for the past seven years. The structure of the file includes data categories such as; demographics, academic background, and academic performance. In order to diagnose "At-risk Groups", a Retention and Graduation Study was conducted combining six cohorts. Nineteen factors relating to the previously mentioned data categories were then examined. Subsequently, the students were then placed into two sub-groups: returned/graduated versus withdrew/non-graduated.

Factors were defined as being of negative impact if the rates were significantly different between the two sub-groups based on a Chi-Square Test and Independent-Sample T-Tests. After in-depth study of the results it was discovered that students who had a GPA of 2.0 or below after their first term had the highest rates of withdrawal and the lowest graduation rate (among the 19 factors). Further analysis also revealed that minority male students with special admit status, or who were in need of remediation, were more likely to be on probation or had been dismissed by the end of their first term. A report based upon the findings of this study was submitted to the Retention and Graduation Team for review in support of the development a short-term plan for campuswide implementation. Building Cohort Tracking files is an essential approach for validating data and conducting solid studies. The Office of Institutional Research has built First-Time Freshman Cohort files that track students enrollment and degree status for seven years.

2:50 pm - 3:40 pm



Room: Lafayette

Title: Improve Student Retention by Integrating Institutional Changes, Student Resources and Technology

Track: Data, Surveys, and Resources, Exhibitor Session

Audience Level: Intermediate

Sasha Peterson, Hobsons U.S. Keith Renneker, Hobsons U.S.

Abstract: Many institutions speak about their focus on student retention on campus. Studies abound with research, touting the financial impact, cultural effects, and overall magnitude of retaining current students. Education agencies, policy makers, and experts implore colleges and universities to step up their

Improve Student Retention continued...

efforts to serve their students by keeping them on the path to higher education. Even though institutions realize the need to solve the retention problem, many are puzzled with how to do so in a manageable way that is both strategic and effective.

Most research proves that engaging students is the key to retaining them. How to engage them, however, varies campus to campus and student to student. What are your institution's strengths and weaknesses? What draws students to your campus? What prevents them from staying and/or graduating? It's imperative to understand what leads students to dropout or transfer from your institution before you can structure a plan to retain them. If there is no standard answer, or one-size-fits-all plan, where do you begin? In this session, our retention experts will discuss the varying institutional and personal reasons students choose not to re-enroll for subsequent terms, what defines them as atrisk, and what can be done to reverse the trend. They will also provide the audience with a clear understanding of the elements needed to build a successful retention strategy. The presentation will include specific examples of other institutions that have utilized this approach and focus on how the audience can benefit from their experience.

2:50 pm - 3:40 pm

Room: Ouachita



Title: Using the 2008 Noel-Levitz Freshman Attitudes Report to Inform Campus Interventions Focused on Minority Students

Track: Retention and Special Populations

Audience Level: Intermediate

Elizabeth Herr, Noel-Levitz, Inc. Beth Richter, Noel-Levitz

Abstract: In an effort to clarify and add focus to the national discussion about student success initiatives for today's students, an analysis of findings from a motivational assessment completed by first-year students on hundreds of campuses throughout the United State was conducted. The survey examined a broad range of motivational characteristics that the students brought with them to their collegiate learning experience. Collected in the fall of 2007 from a total of 92,894 first-year college students nationwide who completed a 100-item attitudinal survey during orientation or within their first few weeks of classes, these responses provide insights into the backgrounds, goals, strengths, and challenges of entering college students. The data were analyzed to reveal significant differences in responses and motivations by different racial/ethnic groups: black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American and white students. This paper seeks to assist institutions in closing the gap in academic achievement and student success by providing information to guide and inform campus programs and interventions for students from different backgrounds. Additionally this paper features five different campus programs that focus on student retention and success initiatives for under-represented populations.

The following poster sessions will be presented in the Manning Room from 2:50 pm - 3:40 pm



Title: Brother-To-Brother

Track: Retention and Special Populations

Audience Level: Intermediate

Cledis Stuart, Southern Arkansas University

Abstract: Brother-To-Brother was designed to focus on the retention and refinement of African American men at Southern Arkansas University. While many men from this group choose to join fraternal organizations, a large majority of them opt not to affiliate with such groups. Research has shown that students who are more involved in co-curricular activities tend to persist and graduate. With this goal in mind, Brother-To-Brother was established to intentionally expose young African American men in higher education to opportunities, organizations, and accomplished professionals that will help them to see college as a means to an end and not the final destination.



Title: Celebrating Excellence after the First College Year

Track: Meritorious Programs and Initiatives

Audience Level: Intermediate

Sandra Smith, Southern Arkansas University

Abstract: Research shows that students who are engaged academically and in co-curricular activities are retained at higher rates, but how are we celebrating that excellence? Southern Arkansas University has created several unique programs and initiatives to highlight student success. From the Annual Leadership, Recognition, and Awards banquet to Greek Scholars, this poster session will provide you with many different ideas and approaches to highlight your students' success.

The following poster sessions will be presented in the Manning Room from 2:50 pm - 3:40 pm



Title: Good to Better to Best Practices: Developing an Advising Community at Baylor

University

Track: Meritorious Programs and Initiatives

Audience Level: Intermediate

Joyce Miller, Baylor University

Abstract: This poster session shows dramatic changes in advising practices at Baylor University over a seven year period. The Administration's comprehensive efforts to improve student retention accelerated progress of developing an advising community. Requests to comply with recommended NACADA standards for advising loads were approved, resulting in increased professional advising staff. Task forces examined various procedures and proposed quality improvements in advising tools. Establishing an Academic Advising Council brought representatives from each academic unit to the table along with professional advisors. The council framed and published the first comprehensive definition of advising. Action items included: improved technology and expanded access; advisor of record assignment; a general advising website; professional development opportunities; and incentives in reward and recognition. Electronic advising forms, file management systems, and expanded advisor access to student data eliminated the need for hard copy folders including student records, advisor documentation, and advising forms. Web based advising information and resources are available to all advisors, students and other constituents. Developing an advising community at Baylor has added value to advising. Throughout campus, good practices have become better with growing areas that model best practices.



Title: Involvement, Universal-Diverse Orientation, and Sense of Community among First Generation Minority College Students

Track: Retention and Special Populations

Audience Level: Intermediate

Jennifer Livingston, Azusa Pacific University

Abstract: Institutions are responding to an increasingly diverse student body. Providing opportunities for involvement, creating a welcoming campus community, and encouraging diverse interactions are especially important to aid in improving student outcomes. Three variables were explored for their relationship with student retention: psychological sense of community, universal-diverse orientation, and campus involvement. Electronic survey responses of first

The following poster sessions will be presented in the Manning Room from 2:50 pm - 3:40 pm

Involvement, Universal-Diverse Orientation continued...

generation minority students and Caucasian second (or later) generation peers were compared. Significant positive correlations as well as a potential predictor of retention are suggested by the data.



Title: Living and Learning the Residential College Way

Track: Transfers and Retention

Audience Level: Intermediate

Michael Woods, Southern Arkansas University

Abstract: The Residential College at Southern Arkansas University was created in 2005 to increase student retention among freshmen students and focuses on leadership, service, and excellence. RC students are expected to participate in events and complete fifteen hours of community service each semester. This selective learning community has been successful in retention and academic achievement. This poster session will provide participants with the tools needed to create a residential college on their campus.



Title: Maintaining Minority Retention at a Private Christian University

Track: Retention and Special Populations

Audience Level: Introductory

Viece Kuykendall, Baylor University

Abstract: Retention is the top priority of every institution. We all want to see our students not only succeed in the classroom, but also become independently successful after college. Retention for minority students is especially a rising concern for private universities. Institutions across the country are discussing how to attract and retain various minority groups. While college costs continue to rise, Baylor University has been able to not only retain minorities, but to also increase the numbers over the past three to five years. While the effort is university wide, this presentation will focus on how the Paul L. Foster Success Center has been a catalyst in these retention efforts. We would like to explore the outcomes of academic, social and emotional support available to students and how that support makes them feel open to asking for and receiving help.

The following poster session will be presented in the Manning Room from 2:50 pm - 3:40 pm



Title: The Role of First Semester Course Schedules in Predicting Student Retention

Track: Retention Theory and Models

Audience Level: Intermediate

Paul Prewitt-Freilino, Roger Williams University

Abstract: A vast body of research stresses the importance of faculty interaction with traditional students during the first semester of college. Prior studies predicting first year retention focus on pre-existing characteristics (e.g. high school GPA, SAT, financial aid package, participation in first year experience, sex, and ethnicity), but scholars rarely examine the impact of student course schedules during the first semester. The current investigation developed a predictive model of first year student persistence, based upon background characteristics and variables taken from first semester class schedules. specifically, average class size and the proportion of instruction received from full time as opposed to part time faculty. To add greater depth to the analysis, I compared multiple years of data from a moderately selective private university in the Northeastern United States with a student body of around 5.000. Findings suggest that small classes promote meaningful student-faculty interactions during the first semester, and student persistence did not differ significantly based upon instruction received from full time or part time faculty. Indeed, institutions with limited resources should consider utilizing more part time faculty to reduce first semester class sizes in order to better support student persistence and interaction with faculty.

2:50 pm - 4:40 pm (1 hr, 50 min. session)

Room: Hoffman



Title: Two-part Tutorial: Multiple Indicators for Monitoring Undergraduate Transfers Through to the Baccalaureate

Track: Data, Surveys, and Resources

Audience Level: Intermediate

Patrick Perry, California Community College Philip Garcia, Califronia State University

Abstract: This is a two-part tutorial that will include a short break. It will demonstrate how community colleges and baccalaureate-conferring institutions can report data on the many facets of the transfer function. The topics to be covered will be presented by the chief research officers of the California Community College System and the California State University System. The topics that each segment addresses are complementary, but they are not the same.

Two-Part Tutorial continued...

Part 1: Community college topics include:

- How to identify cohorts of potential transfers among the total enrollment of new community college students.
- How to determine completion rates for the transfer curriculum.
- How to calculate transfer rates.
- Identifying data sources for determining who transfers?
- How to ascribe institution of origin for students that attended more than one community college.

Part 2: 4-year institution topics include:

- The impact of restricting graduation rates to community college students with 30 semester or more transferable units.
- The impact of restricting graduation rates to just fall enrollees from community colleges.
- The impact of excluding undergraduate transfers from 4-year institutions from graduation rates.
- How to compare graduation rates between cohorts of new freshmen and new transfers.
- Monitoring for grade inflation: comparing transfer GPA with 1st year GPA at a 4-year institution.

3:50 pm - 4:40 pm

Room: Chicot



Title: Arkansas State University-Beebe (ASUB): Student Services Retention Strategies

Track: Retention and Special Populations

Audience Level: Introductory

Rebecca Walls, Arkansas State University - Beebe David Mayes, Arkansas State University - Beebe Rebecca Wolf, Arkansas State University - Beebe Connie Nowell, Arkansas State University - Beebe Angie Totty, Arkansas State University - Beebe

Abstract: Retention of students on college campuses is becoming an increasingly important topic throughout higher education in the United States. This paper will present findings related to the success of student support services and programs in the retention of students at Arkansas State University-Beebe (ASUB). ASUB is a rural, two-year college with a student body of approximately 4,000, across each of its four campuses. While the composition of our student body is continuously changing, many of our students continue to be non-traditional students, first-generation students, and low-income students. This research will allow us to look at success rates of typical student services on the retention of these types of students. Areas to be addressed will include student organizations, residence halls, new student orientation, the learning center, guidance services, financial aid, admissions, and student support services. While it is widely accepted that these types of student programs are tied to student retention, it is important to continue to provide empirical evidence

Arkansas State University-Beebe (ASUB) continued...

supporting this fact across a wide range of settings and student body compositions. This research will present ASUB's efforts toward this goal.

3:50 pm - 4:40 pm Rc

Room: Ouachita



Title: Biology Student Departure and Persistence: The Effects of College Biology Experience and Course Performance

Track: Retention and Special Populations

Audience Level: Intermediate

Sarah Lang, University of Texas at Austin

Abstract: Attrition from the biology major is a complex problem because biology is the most popular of the STEM disciplines and thus loses the greatest number of individuals. Using a sequential, explanatory, mixed methods design, this paper compared students who persisted in the major with students who left the major by examining how their college biology experiences figured into their persistence in or departure from the major. All participants entered The University of Texas at Austin as biology freshmen in the fall semesters of 2001 through 2004; 319 students responded to a questionnaire developed for the study; and 35 students participated in semi-structured life story interviews and homogenous focus groups. Findings of this study demonstrate: 1) Biology persisters did not actively decide to stay in the biology major; they chose not to leave; 2) Biology switchers did not leave biology due to preference for other disciplines; they left due to difficulties or dissatisfaction with aspects of the biology major, including their courses, faculty, and peers; and 3) Performance, particularly in introductory coursework, had a powerful, though differential effect on persistence, depending on how well participants performed in non-biology coursework or in comparison to their peers.

3:50 pm - 4:40 pm

Room: Grampas



Title: University Studies' Students First Success System: Integrating on-line support resources into the general education curriculum to promote freshmen academic performance and retention

Track: Meritorious Programs and Initiatives

Audience Level: Intermediate

Peter Collier, Portland State University Sukhwant Jhaj, Portland State University Steve Reder, Portland State University Collin Fellows, Portland State University Carmen Schwisow, Portland State University

Abstract: University Studies, Portland State University's general education curriculum, provides students with integrated, connected learning experiences

University Studies' Students continued...

from Freshmen Inquiry's year-long sequence of courses through Senior Capstones. This paper describes the development and implementation of the Students First Success System (SFSS), an on-line student support system that compliments freshmen year general education courses. SFSS customizes the matching of multimedia resources to individual needs and specific University Studies' learning goals. SFSS will work in conjunction with current University Studies mentor sections, to help freshmen become "more expert college students," by providing useful information about "what to do in order to succeed at the university." Students will follow a series of steps in specific learning plans each of which addresses a different element of student success - e.g. how to do library research. SFSS builds an on-line portfolio of each learner's goals, plans and past work, which then can be used to document student progress in each of these specific areas. This system also has the capacity to connect PSU students on all levels to the full range of campus services and resources, strategies on how to use these resources appropriately, and human mentors who can clarify any points that may be confusing.

3:50 pm - 4:40 pm



Room: Lafayette

Title: What Helps Students Thrive? The Methodology and Results of an Investigation

of Student Engagement and Student Performance

Track: Data, Surveys, and Resources

Audience Level: Advanced

Craig M. Becker, East Carolina University Kemal Atkins, East Carolina University Sue Martin, East Carolina University

Abstract: Graduation rates, academic success, and health status are top priorities of universities. Overall it has been found that students academically or socially integrated to the campus are more likely to remain in college and graduate. Does this mean Student Affairs programs can help college students succeed? Most believe it does and this paper presents a strategy and results of a study that analyzed the overall relationship Student Affairs programs had with student GPA and health status. The goal of this research was to discover what helps students thrive, not just survive at school. To study thriving, the theoretical model of salutogenesis was adapted to investigate factors related to student success as measured through academic performance and health status. Using electronically collected data from a simple random sample of 691 students, the results of relationships between student engagement in Student Affairs programs, student academic performance, and health status have been reported. Additional findings outlined relationships of on and off-campus students, gender, year, marital status, and working hours with engagement in Student Affairs programs.

The following poster sessions will be presented in the Manning Room from 3:50 pm - 4:40 pm



Title: Connecting Students through Residential Interest Groups

Track: Meritorious Programs and Initiatives

Audience Level: Intermediate

Michael Woods, Southern Arkansas University

Abstract: To address the growing issue of student retention and satisfaction in residence life, Southern Arkansas University has implemented a new housing initiative: Residential Interest Groups (RIGs). Through RIGs, all students are housed according to their interests. This session will explore our journey with this program, highlight the implementation of student housing that will address student needs and enhance the educational community, and provide you with the tools necessary to consider forming RIGs on your campus.



Title: 30-60-90 Student Success Roadmap

Track: Meritorious Programs and Initiatives

Audience Level: Intermediate

Mary Keenan, University of Minnesota Duluth

Abstract: In the summer of 2006, the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) established a team to define UMD's comprehensive approach for improving retention and graduation rates. The team analyzed previous university studies and reports, conducted a review of scholarly work on the topic of student persistence, identified best practices, and gathered input from UMD faculty, administrators, staff, and students to create a strategic view of student success at UMD. The team's work resulted in two significant outcomes: 1) the Student Success Strategy Map, UMD's shared framework for decision making and action, and 2) the 30-60-90 Student Success Roadmap, which provides benchmarks on a clearly marked route to student success. In addition to these core documents, implementation of UMD's graduation rate initiative is facilitated through a stakeholder communication plan and a comprehensive data collection strategy. Poster session attendees are invited to provide the project leaders with feedback on the core documents as well as UMD's overall strategy for improved graduation rates.

The following poster sessions will be presented in the Manning Room from 3:50 pm - 4:40 pm



Title: Improving Community College Transfer Students' Transition to the University

Track: Transfers and Retention

Audience Level: Intermediate

Bernadette Jungblut, University of Central Florida Charlene Stinard, University of Central Florida Brittany Resmann, University of Central Florida

Abstract: Do collaborative advising programs between community colleges and four-year universities increase the likelihood of a smoother transition from the two-year to the four-year institution? Employing a proportional, representative, matched-pairs sample of transfer students who have and have not experienced this type of collaborative advising, this study examines the impact of such programs and services between community college partners and four-year institutions on students' transition to the four-year university. We hypothesize that, through strong partnerships with community colleges, embedded university academic advisors' services to transferring students will lead to enhanced academic preparation; a smoother transition to the university setting; and the potential for increased academic success for these transfer students during their time at the university. The study sample is based on multiple factors including: gender, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, high school GPA, SAT or ACT score, community college GPA, major at the community college, and intended major at the university. We use survey, focus group, and interview data from our matched-pairs student sample; from UCF advisors embedded in the partner community colleges; and from the university's Transfer and Transition Services full-time staff and part-time Student Peer Mentors to test these hypotheses.



Title: Improving Retention Through the Life-Health Sciences Internships Program at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)

Track: Looking Beyond First Year Retention

Audience Level: Introductory

Brandi L. Gilbert, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis N. Douglas Lees, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis Simon J. Rhodes, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Abstract: The Life-Health Sciences Internships program, part of a university-wide initiative to improve retention and graduation rates in undergraduates at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), connects undergraduates with on-campus research, clinical, and professional internship experiences in life and health sciences disciplines. Being more connected to the

The following poster sessions will be presented in the Manning Room from 3:50 pm - 4:40 pm

Improving Retention continued...

university environment was projected to help students persist to graduation and continue into graduate or professional school.

Student internship and academic progress was analyzed through entrance and exit interviews; evaluations; and monitoring grades, enrollment, graduation, and professional school placement. There were 38 participants between January 2007 and May 2008 with 46 participants for 2008-2009. Of the 38 participants, 37 completed the internship. Three students graduated, two of which have continued to post-baccalaureate studies, five transferred to other universities, and 30 are currently enrolled. Exit interview responses show 22% plan on continuing at the internship location (7 of 32 respondents) and 44% plan on applying to or attending graduate or professional school within the next year (14 of 32 respondents).

After the first year of the program, preliminary findings show participants are remaining enrolled at IUPUI. Many students in the program were sophomores and juniors; more data will be available as these students approach graduation.



Title: Increasing Scholarship Student Retention: "Support" Involves More Than Funding

Track: Meritorious Programs and Initiatives

Audience Level: Intermediate

Amy Martindale, University of Arkansas Bryan Hembree, University of Arkansas

Abstract: Institutions seeking increased retention rates may benefit from attending to the academic needs of merit-based scholarship recipients. Extensive research indicates that scholarship students typically have much higher retention rates. Little research, however, has addressed the relationship between retention and continued eligibility for scholarship funds.

A common assumption is that scholarship students, who have financial support and strong academic credentials, will automatically be successful. This is true for many, but some students struggle academically and fail to maintain scholarship eligibility. In 2006, 98.9% of University of Arkansas freshmen who maintained scholarship eligibility re-enrolled as sophomores. Of those who lost their scholarship, however, only 48.4% re-enrolled. The relationship between continued scholarship eligibility and continued enrollment clearly warrants attention.

The Scholarship Retention Program attempts to serve the academic needs of merit-based scholarship recipients, and thereby increase the number of students

The following poster sessions will be presented in the Manning Room from 3:50 pm - 4:40 pm

Increasing Scholarship Student Retention continued...

who maintain both scholarship eligibility and enrollment. The program offers one-on-one advising to recipients who demonstrate academic difficulty. In one year, freshman scholarship renewal increased from 86.3% to 89.3%. Enrollment retention of freshman scholars increased from 90.0% to 95.5%. This increase represented 1.0% of the university freshman cohort. Enrollment retention of students who failed to maintain scholarship eligibility increased from 48.4% to 67.9%.



Title: Project Pal: A Freshman Peer Mentoring Program

Track: Retention and Special Populations

Audience Level: Introductory

Cledis Stuart, Southern Arkansas University Sandra Smith, Southern Arkansas University

Abstract: Project Pal is a peer mentoring program for students of color, primarily, African American and Hispanic freshmen. The program is designed to assist target students in becoming acclimated to higher education, while also orienting them to the culture of Southern Arkansas University. Student participants are paired with successful upperclassmen who expose their mentees to resources for their success. As a result of Project Pal's interventive approach, the university experienced an increase in the retention and graduation rates of African American men from the lowest on campus to the second highest (second to African American women). Individuals exposed to this presentation will hear (and see) the successes and challenges of a grassroots mentor program.

Evening Event – Murder Mystery Dinner Theater

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Room: Gather in the Hotel Lobby



Title: Evening Activity - Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre

Audience Level: Participants who have purchased the evening event

Enjoy an evening of murder, mayhem and mischief...with a fabulous meal thrown in for good measure. The MacArthur Park Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre will test your sleuthing skills; prizes will be given to the most adept detectives. The evening includes a murder mystery dinner, dessert, drinks and transportation to and from the MacArthur Museum of Military History.

7:00 am - 8:00 am **Room:** Salon A & B Foyer



Join us for coffee and bagels before the plenary session.

Please note: The Plenary Session that follows will be starting at 8:00 am.

Morning Plenary

8:00 am - 9:15 am **Room:** Salon A & B

§- - - -

Title: Transfer Student Success through Two and Four Year Institutional

Partnerships

Track: Plenary Address

Audience Level: All Participants

Mark Poisel, University of Central Florida

Universities are engaged in exploring new and existing initiatives that work closely with community colleges to enhance the overall process of transitioning two year students to the four year institution setting. Many times these initiatives materialize in the form of collaborative partnerships that require two and four year institutions to engage in an ongoing interactive discussion that targets the specific needs and emerging trends found in their own transfer student demographic.

Transfer student success is very important to the University of Central Florida (UCF). UCF has many programs and services in place that work closely with Community Colleges to promote student success before, during, and after transfer. Through a vision of preparation, transition, and progression the Office of Transfer and Transition Services works diligently to assist transfer students in their transition into a new environment. Programming and collaborating efforts such as Directconnect and TransQuest have made it easier to transfer from a two-year college to UCF. Furthermore, workshops, shared faculty, and joint advising programs have also contributed to the successful efforts of making a transfer to UCF as smooth as possible.

Concurrent Sessions

9:30 am - 10:20 am Room: Ouachita



Title: "Teach Them What They Need to Know": First Year Experience and Retention

of High Risk Students at Trinity College

Track: Meritorious Programs and Initiatives

Audience Level: Intermediate

Elizabeth Child, Trinity University Cristina Parsons, Trinity University

Abstract: At Trinity (Washington) University, College of Arts and Sciences, the undergraduate student population primarily comprises young women whose access to higher education has historically been modest. Most are women of color; median parental income hovers at around 30,000 dollars and median parental education is only 12 years. Most of our students come from D.C. public schools, where only 9% of those who enter 9th grade are expected to finish college. At Trinity, the five-year retention/completion rate is 65%, a significantly higher rate for the population we serve than the national average. In an effort to improve our students' chances of success even further, Trinity recently revamped its general education curriculum. The centerpiece of the new curriculum is our First Year Experience (FYE), which emphasizes foundational skills, supplemental instruction for particularly high-risk students, learning communities, and intensive academic support and intervention. Infused with strategies aimed at correcting academic deficiencies, perhaps more importantly the Trinity curriculum also capitalizes on characteristic student strengths such as resilience, persistence, and optimism. Initial outcomes assessment demonstrates an uptick in first-year retention.

9:30 am - 10:20 am **Room:** Hoffman



Title: Adult Student Retention: A Practical Approach To Retention Improvement Through Learning Enhancement

Track: Retention and Special Populations

Audience Level: Introductory

Mark Fincher, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Abstract: Adult student retention is an issue of growing concern for many institutions. Adult retention differs from traditional retention much like traditional students differ from adult students. As the majority of student body growth comes from adult students, adult student retention management will become critical to the majority of colleges and universities.

9:30 am - 10:20 am Room: Manning



Title: Improving the Experience of New Transfer Students through Collaborative Research and Integrated Program Development

Track: Transfers and Retention

Audience Level: Intermediate

Cynthia Wolf Johnson, University of North Carolina at Charlotte Carolyn Blattner, University of North Carolina at Charlotte Stephen Coppola, University of North Carolina at Charlotte Theodore Elling, University of North Carolina at Charlotte John Smail, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Abstract: Faced with a noticeable decrease in returning student enrollment, the University identified new transfers as the single largest attrition-prone population. Presenters will describe a process that identified barriers to the success and retention of the transfer student population. An inter-divisional working group was formed to research causes of transfer student attrition and to propose an integrated series of programs and services to address issues specific to this population. Sample outcomes included: identification of risk factors, development of data-informed decision-making processes, and increased student success and retention. Programs that were developed and reframed included: admissions, community college support, new student orientation, academic advising, University College to assist new and transitioning students, campus engagement, and career planning. Sample data collection and assessment methods included: real time evaluation of new student orientation, early analysis of social and academic engagement and program participation, academic achievement metrics, and retention. Presenters will share multiple lessons learned and how this process is being examined by the University of North Carolina system and its constituent campuses, of which this institution enrolls the largest number of transfer students.

9:30 am - 10:20 am Room: Riverview



Title: Student Retention in Community Colleges: the Issues, Implications and

Strategies for Success

Track: Retention and Special Populations

Audience Level: Intermediate

Laurie Snyder, Monroe Community College, Damon City Campus

Abstract: Community colleges serve students who face many challenges to persistence. As open-admissions institutions, community colleges serve high populations of students who are: first-generation; meeting workplace and parental responsibilities; classified as low-income; and entering the campus academically underprepared. In addition, considering that community colleges serve approximately half of all of the minority undergraduates in the U.S. (McClenney, 2006), and that minority students have higher attrition rates than their White counterparts, community college faculty/staff members need to

Student Retention continued...

provide additional resources to help these traditionally underserved populations succeed.

While community colleges are dedicated to and effective in providing access to higher education for every individual, complex issues concerning student retention surface in such learning environments. Once these individuals enroll in college, how does the Institute help them achieve their academic and professional goals?

Student Retention in Community Colleges: the Issues, Implications and Strategies for Success interweaves theorists' viewpoints on the topic of student retention, the implications of attrition, and concrete examples of community college's best practices that have proven effective in increasing student retention rates.

9:30 am - 10:20 am

Room: Neosho



Title: Tutorial: What can SA do for you? Getting Started Using Survival Analysis for Retention Studies

Track: Data, Surveys, and Resources

Audience Level: Advanced

Sarah Lang, University of Texas at Austin

Abstract: Widely used in medical, biological, economic, and engineering research and gaining a foothold in education research, survival analysis involves the modeling of time to event data. In biological systems, the event is death; in engineering, the event is operational failure; and in education, the event is student attrition. The purpose of this tutorial is to demonstrate how survival analysis can be used to study student retention, whether for data mining, identifying and tracking at-risk populations, or comparing and evaluating retention programs. At the conclusion of the tutorial, participants will be able to: state the statistical assumptions of and data requirements for survival analysis; describe the major techniques within survival analysis; and define terms such as censoring, truncation, time-dependent variable, hazard rate, and survival rate. Audience participation will involve participants planning a study utilizing survival analysis techniques for their home institutions. Examples provided during the tutorial utilize SPSS and involve analysis of undergraduate departure from the biology major.

Morning Break

10:20 am - 10:40 am



Take a break from the activities and have a drink as you network with your colleagues. The break areas will be located in the Foyer area.

Concurrent Sessions (continued)

10:40 am - 11:30 am Room: Neosho



Title: A Community College-University Partnership: Smoothing the Transition for Child Development and Early Childhood Education Students

Track: Transfers and Retention

Audience Level: Introductory

Lin Moore, Texas Woman's University Elaine Wilkinson, Collin College Donna Cunningham, Texas Woman's University Mavis Dako-Gyeke, Texas Woman's University

Abstract: The goal of this multi-phase project is to promote a smooth transition for students from community college to university enrollment, then retention in the Child Development and Teacher Education programs leading to degree completion and successful employment in professional positions in early childhood settings. A needs assessment identified the barriers and concerns of community college students, both prior to and after transfer from Collin College to Texas Woman's University. Surveys were returned by a sample of 107 students. Additionally, focus groups were conducted to provide opportunities for the voices of traditional and non-traditional students to be clearly heard. Results from descriptive statistics and qualitative analyses identified concerns related to course schedules that were compatible with work and family responsibilities, transferability of credits, and adjusting to a new social and academic environment. Students attributed much of their success at the community college to positive relationships with professors who were viewed as helpful, knowledgeable, and experienced. Additional support systems were family members, classmates, and fellow workers. Recommendations for advising, articulation agreements, cross-campus visitations, and student organizations emerged.

10:40 am - 11:30 am Room: Riverview



Title: A First Look at Entering Students: The Survey of Entering Student Engagement

Track: Data, Surveys, and Resources

Audience Level: Introductory

Jeff Crumpley, The University of Texas at Austin

Abstract: Why do so many community college students leave without completing their educational goals? Why do so many students drop out before the end of their first academic term? What can be done to help stop the hemorrhage of new students from the classroom?

Come learn about the Community College Survey of Student Engagement's (CCSSE) newest initiative, the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE). Administered during the fourth and fifth weeks of the fall academic term, SENSE helps colleges understand the critical early-student experience and targets areas for improving educational practice with entering students.

10:40 am - 11:30 am Room: Ouachita



Title: Identifying the Most At-Risk First Time in College Students

Track: Data, Surveys, and Resources

Audience Level: Advanced

Ronald Atwell, University of Central Florida Bernadette Jungblut, University of Central Florida Brittany Resmann, University of Central Florida Daniel Suleski, University of Central Florida Maribeth Ehasz, University of Central Florida Debra Sembrano, University of Central Florida

Abstract: Data-mining techniques are used to predict the First Time in College students most likely to be at risk for retention failure. Using incoming students' academic preparation and demographic characteristics, we predict and test their likely achievement gaps in terms of retention, probation status, and term GPA. Factors employed to make these predictions (based on a risk score generated for each incoming student) include the following: financial aid, scholarships, and grants; high school overall GPA, class rank, class size, and percentile; SAT total and component scores; ACT total and component scores; high school English, math, science, and social science units and GPA earned; ethnicity, gender, and intended university academic program/major. The results have been used to identify which students most need the Knight Success Program; to design that program; and to improve the retention and persistence of the program participants. Over the past three (3) years, we have reassessed this program's performance and undertaken additional data analyses to inform decisions taken to improve the program's design, implementation, and effectiveness.

10:40 am - 11:30 am Room: Hoffman



Title: Increased Retention Seen in Female Engineering Undergraduates acting as Counselors and instructors in a Middle School Engineering Camp

Track: Retention and Special Populations

Audience Level: Introductory

Minosca Alcantara, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Aimee Rickman, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Susan Larson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Abstract: Recruitment and retention of women students remain challenges for engineering education. Over the last 15 years, women represented roughly 17% of the freshman classes at the College of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and over 38% of these women left their engineering major within the first three years of their program. Both the low entrance rate of women into engineering and their high attrition rate represent a loss of talent for the engineering field.

The Women In Engineering Program established the G.A.M.E.S. (Girl's Adventures in Math, Engineering and Science) summer camp for middle school girls to introduce these young students to engineering. This outreach program has proved it also serves as a retention program for the women engineering students who act as counselors and instructors. By availing our undergraduate women with a support community of female engineering students, faculty, and corporate sponsors, as well as by allowing them to be involved in explaining and representing the engineering field to younger girls increases their interest in their own engineering studies, their commitment to the field, and their likelihood of success. This paper will analyze the effect that the G.A.M.E.S. program has on female retention in the college of engineering.

10:40 am - 11:30 am Room: Manning



Title: The Impending Educational Crisis for American Indians: Higher Education at the Crossroads

Track: Retention and Special Populations

Audience Level: Intermediate

Charles Harrington, University of North Carolina at Pembroke Billie Hunt, The University of North Carolina at Pembroke

Abstract: A significant gap exists in the educational achievement levels of American Indian students and the general student population despite gains attained in various avenues of education reform. A college education is a significant driver in the socioeconomic advancement of American Indian communities. Numerous factors impact the admission, persistence and timely graduation of American Indian students from institutions of higher education. This issue has a direct correlation to the significantly low numbers of doctorally-prepared American Indian faculty in academia.

The Impending Educational Crisis continued...

This paper will provide a national overview of the retention and graduation rates of American Indian students enrolled in American higher education. Also discussed will be characteristics of American Indian higher education faculty. The authors will provide a series of recommendations posited to increase AI student retention and increase the availability of AI faculty in higher education.

11:40 am - 12:00 pm Room: Salon A & B



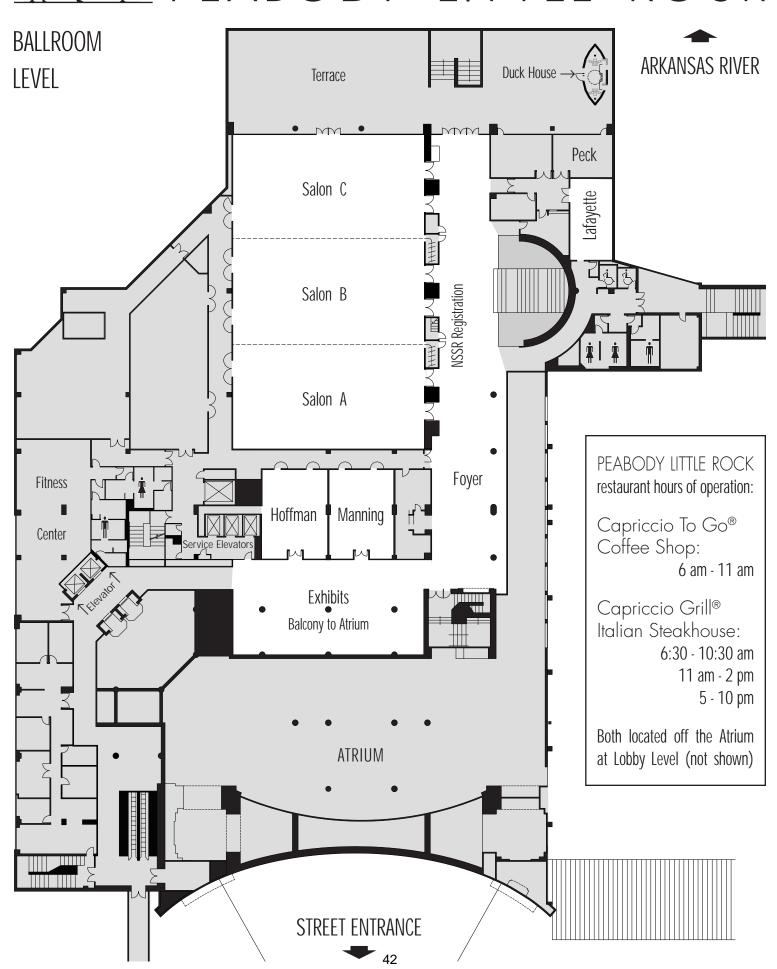
Title: Closing Remarks and CSRDE Best Practices Awards Presentation

Rosemary Hayes, CSRDE, The University of Oklahoma

Each year since 1994, the Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange has recognized the contributions that our colleagues have made to the field of student retention and success. Three awards will be presented at this time: The Best Practices Award; the Institutional Research Leadership in Student Retention Award; and the Director's Award.

Additional Conference Information	

** PEABODY LITTLE ROCK



Exhibitors at the National Symposium on Student Retention

The Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange would like to thank the following organizations for participating in this year's symposium. Participants interested in learning more about the services and products of these exhibitors are encouraged to follow up after the conference using the contact information provided below.



ACT, Inc. 500 ACT Drive lowa City, IA 52243 Phone 319-337-1051

Sandra Stewart, CAAP/Survey Services Consultant

Email: sandra.stewart@act.org



Engaged Minds

70 Windsor Road Brookline, MA 02445 Phone: 617-899-6947 Fax: 800-521-9032

Christoph Knoess, President

Email: christoph.knoess@engagedmindsinc.com

Ned Lovely, CTO

Email: n.j.lovely@engagedmindsinc.com



GradesFirst

4035 Bent River Ln Birmingham, AL 35216 Phone: 205-222-4763

Mario Moore, CEO

Email: Mario@GradesFirst.com



Cooperative Institutional Research Program at the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA

3005 Moore Hall, Box 951521 Los Angeles, CA 90095 Phone: 310-206-1433

Linda DeAngelo, CIRP Assistant Director for Research

Email: lindade@ucla.edu



Hobsons

50 E-Business Way Cincinnati, OH 45241 Phone: 800-927-8439 Fax: 800-891-8531

Danielle Craig, Marketing Manager – Student Retention

Email: dcraig@hobsons-us.com

Keith Rennecker, Enterprise Sales Manager

Email: krenneker@hobsons-us.com



Lexnet Consulting, Inc.

1032 E. South Boulder Road, Suite 204 Louisville, CO 80027

Phone: 303-604-2525 Fax: 877-253-4990

Sue DeRose, President

Email: sue@lexnetconsulting.com