REIMAGINING THE FIRST YEAR

Nancy Baker, Interim Associate Vice Provost
Tami Cook, EURECA Center Director
WHAT IS RFY?

- Sponsored by AASCU
- Ensuring success for **ALL** students, particularly those who have historically been underserved by higher education
  - Low income
  - First generation
  - Students of color
WHAT IS RFY?

- Substantively and sustainably alter the first-year experience
  - Dramatically improve the quality of learning and student experience in the first year
- Increase retention rates
- Improve student success
WHAT IS RFY?

- No single intervention will solve student performance issues
- What works on one campus may not work on all campuses
“WE ARE MUCH SMARTER COLLECTIVELY THAN WE ARE INDIVIDUALLY”
-GEORGE MEHAFFY
THE CAMPUS PLAN

Develop initiatives in each of four “buckets”
BUCKET #1: INSTITUTIONAL INTENTIONALITY
BUCKET #2: CURRICULUM
BUCKET #3: FACULTY & STAFF
BUCKET #4: STUDENTS
Expanding the team and developing strategies!
OVERARCHING CAMPUS GOALS

- Engage faculty in the student success conversation on campus
- Create a “welcome to your new home” experience for freshmen and transfer students
- Increase the number of students who are graduating in four years by redesigning campus advising
- Increase the number of students who take credit-bearing math courses by strengthening the developmental math curriculum
- Increase the number of students who take the college success course by restructuring UNIV 1301
BUCKET #1: INSTITUTIONAL INTENTIONALITY

- Implement My Success planner across campus
- Create a single checklist for incoming students
- Review all messaging to students and revise to a “Growth Mindset” communication

“Intelligence is malleable. Trying harder makes you smarter and obstacles can be overcome through effort, help from others, and use of improved strategy.”

David Yeager
Academic Affairs Winter Meeting
BUCKET #1: INSTITUTIONAL INTENTIONALITY

- Involve academic deans in the communication flow to declared students
- Raise monetary threshold for blocks on registration
- Offer students structured scheduling for their first two semesters
Move to a professional advisor model in the SAM Center
Build an advising model that pairs professional advisors to a specific college
BUCKET #2: CURRICULUM

- Strengthen the Developmental Math curriculum
BUCKET #2: CURRICULUM

- Re-calibrate and re-brand UNIV 1301
- Develop a marketing plan for UNIV 1301
**BUCKET #3: FACULTY**

- Incentivize faculty instructional innovation by implementing Teaching Innovation Grants
- Encourage faculty to offer a “Meaningful First Day”
- Incentivize teaching in the core curriculum
- Provide feedback to students within the first three weeks of class
- Expand faculty/student collaborative research & creative activities
BUCKET #4: STUDENTS

- Expand the orientation experience & “Welcome Week”
- Hold a spring orientation for spring FTF admits
BUCKET #4: STUDENTS

- Promote co-curricular transcripts
- Develop a plan that would place all students in a learning community
“THE ART FORM IS HOW YOU PUT THESE PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND PRACTICES IN PLACE, AND WEAVE THEM TOGETHER INTO A STRONG COHERENT STUDENT EXPERIENCE.”

-GEORGE MEHAFFY
“NOTHING IS WRITTEN UNTIL WE WRITE IT.”
-GEORGE MEHSTAFFY
JOIN THE CONVERSATION
WHAT: Brown Bag Lunch
(RFY will provide cookies & tea)
WHEN: September 7, @ 12:00 PM
WHERE: LSC 320
WHAT: Student Belonging Webinar
WHEN: September 14, from 1:00-2:30 PM
WHERE: LSC Ballroom
QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION