ACE: NATIONAL STUDY OF NON-FIRST-TIME STUDENTS SHOWS DISTURBING COMPLETION RATES

Posted October 7, 2014
EQUALITY – Council for Opportunity in Education

In the first national effort to benchmark the persistence patterns of non-first-time college students, researchers found that only 33.7 percent completed their degree, compared with 54.1 percent of first-time students. The number of adult learners who reentered higher education between 2005 and 2008 but have not completed their degree (2,535,946) would almost fill the city of Chicago.

The benchmarking initiative is a cooperative effort between ACE, InsideTrack, NASPA – Student Administrators in Higher Education, the University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA) and the National Student Clearinghouse. It was designed to begin addressing the lack of publicly available data on the success of adults returning to college.

The results come at a critical time as leaders across the country work to increase college attainment rates among working adults. According to the organizations partnering on the study, “if our nation expects the more than 30 million adults with some college but no degree to complete a credential, we need to do a much better job supporting them once they’ve made the decision to reenroll.”

One thing is certain,” says Dave Jarrat, vice president of marketing at InsideTrack, who organized the study, “we’ve just scratched the surface in analyzing this data and look forward to engaging our colleagues across the higher education community in a meaningful dialogue on the important issues it raises,” notes Sandeen.

According to Cathy Sandeen, ACE’s vice president for education attainment and innovation, the group has just begun its analysis. It plans to release additional findings at the ACE-UPCEA Summit for Online Leadership and Strategy in January following discussions with educational leaders and others throughout the fall.

REBECCA TIERNEY ELECTED TO ASPIRE-UT STATE BOARD

ASPIRE – UT is the state organization for the Federal TRIO Programs in Utah. They recently elected officers who took their offices October 13, 2014, and WSU’s very own Rebecca Tierney is now the President Elect of the organization. Rebecca is the Director of the Talent Search program at WSU.

Kyle Ethelbah, President (UofU)
Tami Shugart, Past President (SUU)
Lisa Livingston, Secretary (SUU)
Senthia Ogletree, Treasurer (UVU)
Rebecca Tierney, President Elect (WSU)

ASPIRE Will collaborate with the Utah System of Higher Education for their College Application Week (CAW) Initiative. This collaboration will serve to streamline the college application process for students in the state of Utah. This will also help to introduce our students to overarching initiatives as well as help us to meet our project objectives (for outreach programs).
As the semester winds down, we in Student Support Services are pleased with the completion of our first "Planning For Success" course. This one credit course through Continuing Education was offered to incoming participants with less than 30 earned credits. We had 17 students enrolled as well as 4 of our upper division SSS Ambassadors. We met once a week and helped them to develop a study plan, graduation plan, and cash flow plan. The Ambassadors presented information on campus activities and resources and acted as mentors to these students, and many were able to receive partial tuition waivers for this leadership opportunity.

We are happy to have Sharadee back with us after 6 weeks of maternity leave. We have met baby Malcolm and are pleased that they are both doing well. Sharadee will help Eddie determine eligibility for supplemental grant aid, a financial benefit for our Pell grant recipients who have unmet need and make satisfactory progress by completing at least 12 credits with a 2.0 or better. They are also required to complete a study plan, graduation plan, and cash flow plan. The money is distributed after grades are posted and can be used for school related expenses.

This is the last year of our grant cycle which means that writing a new grant is in the works. Eddie attended a grant-writing workshop at COE in September. Donalyn and Greg attended one at the ASPIRE conference in Grand Forks, ND, in October, only to have the proposal taken down the next day and a revised one posted for the 30 day comment period. That period has now ended and we are awaiting the release of the final proposal. Eddie will be attending another workshop in San Diego in December. The downside of all of this is that the due date has not been set and as in the past it takes time to put out the funding slate. We are concerned that funding may not be available for the start of the 2015 school year. Such is the drama of working for a grant-funded TRiO program.

We wish you all a happy and peaceful holiday season. Stay well and continue to advocate for our TRiO students.

**Student Support Services (SSS)** provides a variety of free services designed to help qualifying students complete a bachelor’s degree.

**To be eligible for services students must:**
- Be a low-income student OR
- First-generation college student OR
- Registered with the WSU Students with Disabilities Office

*In addition, students must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident seeking a bachelor’s degree and enrolled for at least 12 credit hours through Weber State University.*

Applications may be obtained in SC 265 or students may [apply online](#).

**Student Support Services provides the following services:**
- Supplemental Financial Aid (for those who qualify)
- Book Loans
- Academic Tutoring
- Use of the SSS computer lab
- Twenty pages per week of free printing from the SSS Computer Lab
- Learning Skills and Academic Advising
- A fun, one-credit success course focused on study skills, financial literacy, and graduation planning
This fall the Talent Search program has been busy preparing Seniors to apply to college with the "College Application Week" initiative. We provided support to our two high schools, Ben Lomond and Ogden High by participating in their school assemblies with our version of "Reality Price is Right" and providing staff time to assist students in the application process.

Our high school Advisors also coordinated a "Senior Retreat" day at each of their schools prior to "CAW" week to motivate the students to apply. Ben Lomond hosted their event on October 28th, and Ogden High was on November 11th. We munched on pizza and listened to TRIO Talent Search students who are in college now, their experiences with college, and their encouragement to current Seniors to apply for and attend college.

Our junior high advisor has been busy recruiting 8th grade participants, this is always a lot of work and Jill Schenck does a great job of finding these students. Our Director presented a workshop at the Aspire Regional Conference on "The History and Theory of Intrusive Advising" which included tailored information for programs working with low income, first generation students. She has since been asked to present this session at the Montana state Aspire conference as well.

One of the biggest highlights however is our enrollment rate for Seniors into post-secondary education for this fall. Our graduating Seniors enrolled at close to a 82% rate! This is an amazing feat for our high school Advisors, Marisol Velasco and Alejandro Valquinto. This was an increase of approximately 20% over the last few years and they deserve kudos! And a big thanks to our Data Specialist Shaquille Heath, who keeps our data organized and on track which contributes to the success of the Advisors and our Talent Search program as a whole.
UPWARD BOUND

BUSY ACADEMIC YEAR IN UPWARD BOUND

Upward Bound is back in full swing with the Academic Year 2014-15 beginning, students returning to classes and programming taking off. Partnering with Americorp and Career Services, Upward Bound has been able to hire several WSU students to tutor and mentor our students this fall. Our push is to have all of our students have All A’s and B’s during the academic year.

Community service is an integral part of developing a student ready for college. Learning to give back to their community and to participate in service projects give a new perspective to a student who has grown up with multiple barriers and disadvantages. Upward Bound has partnered with the Weber/Davis Boys and Girls Clubs, Project Success, and the Goal Foundation to provide service opportunities. Students are also working on two international service-learning projects to help families in poverty in other countries and specifically orphaned children in the mountains of Peru who are in hospital for burn treatments.

Upward Bound students are applying for scholarships and college admissions. All Upward Bound students have been admitted to Weber State University and many are applying to other universities and colleges. With recruiting in full swing, 17 new students have joined the Upward Bound program so far. Throughout the transition due to the retirement of Dave Trujillo, past Director of Upward Bound, our program will remain strong and impactful to the youth in our target areas.

LEFT: Serving at the “Witches Tea” Ogden Amphitheater, October 25, 2014

RIGHT: Face Painting at Ogden Police Department “Night Out Against Crime” August, 2014

LEFT: Blankets for the Festival of Trees Fundraiser for Primary Children’s Hospital

RIGHT: Clean-up crew for Exterra, Huntsville, Utah September 2014
VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

VITAL VOLUNTEERS FROM VUB AT WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

Two of the VUB participants will soon become mentors for veterans at WSU through the VA’s VITAL program. (Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership).

VITAL is a VA Initiative aimed to support student Veterans on campus in their successful transition to academia, and in completion of their educational goals.

• Integration to Veteran Life: most Veterans are entering college for the first time vs. returning
• Academic Leadership: the act of taking responsibility for one’s own work, and setting the example for others through action and mentorship

⇒ VITAL is EMPOWERMENT

Bob Sarlo and Sam Smith have volunteered their services to support other veterans who need help or guidance, especially in their first college experience. They have been trained as peer mentors in order to help them with their efforts.

VITAL Display at Veterans Day 2014

VUB PARTICIPANT HELPS ORGANIZE VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES AT THE WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY DAVIS CAMPUS

Keith Ellis saw an opportunity to serve veterans this year and got involved helping to organize the Veterans Day event at the Davis campus. The event was held November 11, 2014 after several years of little to no observation of Veterans Day at the Davis campus. We are proud of Keith for his efforts.

DAN CZECH AND RANDY WILSON AT WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY VETERANS UPWARD BOUND RECEIVE AWARDS

Veterans Day at Weber State University was held on November 10, 2014 this year and included a Veterans Recognition Luncheon. Dan Czech, Enrollment Advisor at WSU VUB, and Randy Wilson, Director, both received awards. The text of the awards reads as such, “For demonstration of outstanding professional qualities and willingness to go above and beyond standard expectations to enhance the quality of WSU student veterans’ and military members’ educational experience.”
The Council for Opportunity in Education and the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education are pleased to announce the October 2014 issue of Postsecondary Education Opportunity. The issue, “Class Warfare — Unequal by Design” argues that since 1980, public policy choices made in law, programs, and investment have shifted away from the populations who would benefit the most and towards those who benefit the least — from poor to affluent. It stresses that higher education is now a centerpiece in these class warfare policies. Author Tom Mortenson also discusses the consequences of these policy choices and some solutions to the consequences. Mortenson advocates for policy choices that reshape higher education from the divisive and destructive social and economic force that it has become into a socially bridging and economically engaging force that it could become.

Excerpt from “Class Warfare — Unequal by Design”

Around 1980, public policy in the United States began to reverse course, abandoning the policies that had built the country, and replacing those policies with laws, programs, and investments that have taken the country on an entirely different course. The evidence of the course reversal is apparent in accumulating public debt, in decaying roads, bridges, and other infrastructure on which modern life depends, climate change including global warming, even in declining life expectancy among certain groups of the population. Recently the results of this new policy direction are being described as contributing to the lack of economic growth and growing political polarization and instability.

Nowhere is the evidence of this public policy redirection clearer than it is in higher education. Since about 1980 the public policy choices made in law, programs, and investment describe an enormous shift away from the populations that would benefit the most and towards those that benefit the least — from poor to affluent. Higher education has become a centerpiece in the class warfare policies initiated around 1980.

Subscription Information

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To subscribe, please go to (http://www.postsecondary.org/subscriptions/) or e-mail Brittany Ross directly at (brittany.ross@pellinstitute.org) for more information.

"Creativity: Take the obvious, add a cupful of brains, a generous pinch of imagination, a bucketful of courage and daring, stir well and bring to a boil." ~ Bernard Baruch

"I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework." ~ Lily Tomlin
GOOD NEWS FOR TRiO

Dear Colleagues:

“Today, long-time TRiO Champion Tom Cole of Oklahoma was named Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education for the 114th Session of Congress. You can see the formal announcement on the House Appropriations website. More information is also contained in the news brief from PoliticoPro, copied below. This is welcome news for our community. We encourage all TRiO supporters, particularly members of our SWASAP region, to extend their congratulations to Congressman Cole on this key appointment. You can contact his office by phone at (202) 225-6165 or via email. Thank you for your continued support of low-income, first-generation students everywhere.

Sincerely,
Maureen Hoyler
(COE) President

COLE WILL LEAD LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE: Oklahoma Rep. Tom Cole will chair the Labor-HHS-Education subcommittee on the House Committee on Appropriations next year, committee Chairman Hal Rogers announced today.

The Labor-HHS-Education spending bill is one of the biggest and most divisive of the spending bills put out by the committee each year, which makes it especially difficult to move in the House."

LINDA TOBIAS HIRED TO BE THE NEW DIRECTOR OF UPWARD BOUND

Congratulations to Linda Tobias for being selected to replace Dave Trujillo as the Upward Bound Director at Weber State University. Linda has worked in the Upward Bound program at WSU for 10 years and has the passion and tools to lead the program and its participants to further success.

$650 DONATION FOR SHOE BOXES FOR VETERANS
http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/ut/14/default.aspx

A few months ago Ron and Barbara Ocana from the Disabled American Veterans of Davis Count Chapter 14 came by the VUB office and spoke to us about donating money to help with the Shoe Boxes for Veterans project we run each year. Then he went back to his chapter in Layton and asked them to donate $500. He brought us a check on Thursday, November 13, 2014. Shortly after the first donation, Ron returned to our office with a $150.00 donation from the Women’s Auxiliary of the DAV.

Shoe Boxes for Veterans is a holidays project where people donate items that will fit in packages about the size of shoe boxes and then we deliver them to homeless veterans and veterans in nursing homes. We usually start the process in the middle to late part of October and it runs into the second week of December. Just before the WSU holiday break we deliver the gifts.

We are very appreciative of the support from the DAV in Davis County and for the support of all the other individuals who take the time to prepare gifts for these veterans who might not have the great holiday experience the rest of us enjoy.

Thank you to the Disabled American Veterans of Davis County Chapter 14!
LEADERS, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI SPEAK ON CAPITOL HILL ON THE ALL-IMPORTANT VALUE OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

On November 18, the Council for Opportunity in Education held a briefing on Capitol Hill on “TRIO Student Support Services — Transforming Opportunity into Outcomes.” The event was moderated by Daniel Connell, Assistant Vice President of Morehead State University in KY. and featured speakers Charlene M. Dukes, President of Prince George’s Community College and Upward Bound alumna; Marisa M. Mendoza, former Director of Student Support Services and Development Director at Haskell Indian Nations University; Leonel Castellano, MBA student and Student Support Services alumnus from Washington State University; and Breanna Olson, student and participant in Student Support Services at St. Olaf College.

President Dukes said that the work that Student Support Services (SSS) does is unmeasurable and is true to her heart. “Without this funding, we would have 275 students lost in an academic maze.” Maria Mendoza said that SSS takes on the role of family and fosters success in students. At her university, the graduation rate of SSS students is three times that of the university as a whole. Leonel Castellano said that SSS is a beacon of hope in small towns like his and that without it, there is a gap for first-generation students. Breanna Olson said that her SSS advisor is the reason she stayed in college. “They empower us to meet our goals and tell us that we can succeed.” In closing, with regard to the criticism that programs like this enable students, Dukes said that TRIO uplifts communities and the metrics speak for themselves. “TRIO works!”

Dan Connell, Assistant Vice President of Morehead State University

(I-r) Breanna Olson, Student and Student Support Services Participant, St. Olaf College; Leonel Castellano, MBA Student and Student Support Services Alumnus, Washington State University; Marisa M. Mendoza, Former Director, Student Support Services and Development Director, Haskell Indian Nations University; and Charlene M. Dukes, President of Prince George’s Community College and Upward Bound Alumna