



THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

THE STRATEGIC PLAN OF INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

GOAL ONE:

INCREASE ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT SUCCESS



**Indiana State
University**

More. From day one.

Initiative: 3 **Initiative Title:** Create a Unified Undergraduate Student Success Program

Introduction

The fundamental purpose of this initiative is to more effectively serve the citizens of Indiana via the increased production of ISU graduates with postsecondary degrees. The demographic profiles of our students are the ones especially important to the state's future. Retaining and graduating these students is also important to institutional viability and a revenue source most within our control to affect. Ensuring coordinated and focused high quality student experiences linked to retaining and graduating students in a timely manner undergirds the efforts associated with this Goal 1 initiative.

Purpose

This initiative is focused on creating a comprehensive program for student success. Indiana State University offers many programs and services to assist students in being successful. This initiative seeks to maintain and expand programs that positively impact student success and to develop new programs that increase student persistence and graduation. Historically, this initiative's student success efforts have focused on retention among freshmen. While that continues to be an important emphasis, the birth of the University College has enabled this initiative to partially shift its focus toward specific constituencies that have not received adequate attention, namely 21st Century Scholars, first generation students, and sophomores that for state policy and/or critical mass reasons, require attention. Furthermore, it supports the efforts of the SEM initiative.

Methods

- 1) Support the success of the SEM initiative.
- 2) Expand the use and impact of MAP-Works as an early warning system for freshmen.
- 2) Strengthen and enhance the retention and completion of 21st Century Scholars.
- 3) Strengthen mentoring and support opportunities for first generation students.
- 4) Launch a fall student success conference.
- 5) Deploy a Sophomore Success Initiative that responds to key recommendations of the Sophomore Experience Report.

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Discussion

There has been significant progress on this initiative. An early warning system is in its fourth year of use, and the number of students, faculty, and staff who are using the system has grown tremendously, exceeded its target in 2012-13. MAP-Works provides information about students at risk for departure from the university and also provides the ability to communicate with students, faculty, and staff around student success issues. This past year, ISU developed a SEM plan in consultation with AACRAO Consulting that launched in May 2013. The SEM plan and its nine initiatives focuses in three key areas, pre-college, first-year, and persistence to completion. The SEM initiative provides expanded communication and information with prospective students and their families, as well as current students, on topics such as preparing for college and financial literacy. The SEM also provides focused attention on conditional admissions and summer bridge, freshmen advising and instruction, teaching pedagogy, co-curricular engagement, modeling student success, and barriers across units.

A student success website has been developed to provide information to students, faculty, staff, and parents. As this goal initiative expands, further content will be included and existing content revised. The Student Success Council has been and will be centrally important to the oversight of work reflected in all of the Goal 1 initiatives, including the SEM. Furthermore, with the successful launch of the First Generation Student Mentoring Program by first generation faculty and the Scholar Corps program for 21st Century Scholars in 2012-13, those key constituencies have received helpful attention and for which expansion is envisioned through this initiative. Sophomores have received little attention in retention efforts to date but with its greater focus this year through this goal initiative, their retention and ultimately completion are poised to be enhanced.

Summary

This initiative is making progress at developing and refining programs to positively impact students, undergirded by a Strategic Enrollment Plan (SEM). Support for the SEM plan and the other initiatives reflected in this Goal 1 initiative are all fundamentally designed to increase student retention, but even more importantly, student degree completion.

Initiative Chair(s) and Contact Information

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