



The Pathway to Success Strategic Plan

2014-15 End-of-Year Report: Goals 1-3

Goal Initiative #: Goal 1, Initiative 11C

Initiative Title: Sycamoreology

Initiative Chairs(s): Domenic Nepote, Melissa Hughes, Ann Malloy

1. Specific accomplishments/achievements since 2013-14 report (*briefly explain using bullet points, noting any changed/adapted*):

- Retention rates of Sycamoreology participants were tracked to the start of year 2
- 1,500 students accessed Blackboard prior to the start of Fall 2014
- Re-designed the Sycamoreology program based on that learned in prior years

2. Objective/Actions Not Achieved (*briefly explain using bullet points*):

- While Sycamoreology was made available to transfer student participants, it was determined that the program did not work well for them
- Tracking procedures were inconsistent from prior year

3. Benchmark table and benchmark detail:

Initiative Benchmarks	FY 2014G	FY 2014A	FY 2015G	FY 2015A
Number of unique IDs utilizing Blackboard in conjunction with Sycamoreology (as of fall official count date within the FY - 991s collected)	500	1,671	1,700	1,500
Number of students taking on-line information based quizzes (as of fall office count date within the FY)	300	835	850	N/A
Percentage of students that accessed Blackboard in association with Sycamoreology that retained to Year 2	66%	65.8%	67.0%	TBC
Number of students taking the math placement test by June 1 preceding the FY, that subsequently enroll	900	972	1,000	834
Number of students submitting immunization documents by June 1 preceding the FY, regardless of subsequent enrollment	150	217	230	644

4. Total Funding Allocation for 2014-15:

- **\$20,000**

5. Expenditures as of report date (*include both expenditures and encumbered costs*):

- **\$6,916**

6. Anticipated Remainder June 30, 2015:

- **\$12,184**
- **Sycamoreology funding is unique in that the program begins in the Spring semester of one fiscal year and concludes in the fiscal year which follows. When the program begins, commitments are made to student wages and participation incentives that are not paid until the new fiscal year. These commitments are made prior to being informed of the funding support for the next year, and because of this, Sycamoreology must have residual dollars at June 30, 2015, in order to close out the program now underway that will cross into FY 2016.**

7. Initiative accomplishments since inception of strategic plan:

- **3,171 students introduced to Blackboard well before their first semester began**
- **Students that participated retained higher than those that did not participate to both the first spring semester and the second fall semester**
- **Offered 25 book scholarships per year**
- **Provided incentives to keep students on campus the first weekend of classes**
- **Networking opportunities with classmates**

8. Looking ahead, what recommendations do you have for the future of this initiative:

- **There is a need to make a major transition away from the original concept, due to the difficulty of participation expressed by students and other lessons learned**
- **Enhanced focus on Blackboard and addition of portal emphasis**
- **Continue to track retention from year to year to see if it remains higher than the general population**
- **Begin tracking graduation rates of the cohorts at the end of four years from start date**
- **Identify student assistant earlier to assume tracking responsibilities and for increased networking opportunities within Blackboard**

9. What barriers do you anticipate for full implementation of these recommendations?

With the exception of multiple priorities/limited time , there are no barriers anticipated as long as funding continues for marketing materials, student wages, and participation incentives.

10. At this point in the implementation of the strategic plan, do you believe that there are new points of emphasis for your initiative? If so, please explain.

As mentioned above in number 8, there is a planned enhanced focus on Blackboard and a new emphasis on the portal.

11. Looking back from this point in the implementation of the strategic plan, do you see any missed opportunities related to your initiative?

We chose to launch in a short period of time (2 months) and chose to focus only on freshmen. Recognizing the need to include transfer students, a spring version was introduced for them that had limited success. Unfortunately, this model did not work well for transfer students. After having the opportunity to evaluate the success of the proposed new model, we will again explore opportunities for including transfer students.

12. Has this initiative been sufficiently integrated into your operations?

Since this initiative is closely tied to New Student Orientation, leadership and day to day management may fit better within that office structure. Sycamore Express Offices would want to have continued involvement.

13. Do you see opportunity for this project to work more closely with another initiative(s) or University department such that greater impact might be possible (*briefly explain*)?

As mentioned in number 12 above, leadership and day to day management may fit better within New Student Transition Programs.