

# The Completion Agenda

## California Student Success Summit

September 23, 2013

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# Two Key Questions

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- 1. What is the Completion Agenda, and why is it important?**
- 2. What really works to help students succeed?**



## Question One

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**What is the  
Completion Agenda,  
and why is it  
Important?**



# The Mission of Completion

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**The mission of the Completion Agenda is to double the number of students who by the year 2020 earn a certificate, associate's degree, or transfer to a four-year college or university.**



# Completion Agenda

- **President Obama: 5 million more CC grads by 2020**
- **Lumina: 60% increase by 2025**
- **Gates: double number of grads**
- **CC Org: 50% more by 2020**
- **Utah: 66% by 2020**
- **Anne Arundel: double by 2020**



# Why Important?

- **Once first in the world, America now ranks 16th in the percentage of young adults with a college degree.**
- **The World Economic Forum ranks the U.S.'s educational system 26<sup>th</sup> in the world.**



# Why Important?

- **For the first time in our history, the current generation of college-age Americans will be less educated than their parents' generation.**
- **“If your daddy was rich, you're gonna stay rich, and if your daddy was poor you're gonna stay poor.”**  
*Esquire, January 2012*



# Why Important?

- **14% of CC students do not complete a single credit in first term**
- **Almost 50% drop out by second yr.**
- **60% need remediation**
- **33% recommended for dvlp. studies never enroll in those courses**





# The Gates Foundation

**“The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has identified the community college as a key player in education and is supporting its role in the national agenda to double the number of low-income young adults who earn a postsecondary credential.... investing \$475 million over four years in its Postsecondary Success strategy.”**



# California Challenges

- **Less than 30% of students are college-ready.**
- **Only 53.6% of degree-seeking students ever achieve that goal.**
- **Of students who plan to transfer only 41% are successful.**



# Student Success Task Force

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**“Recommendations present an opportunity for transformative change that will refocus our system’s efforts and resources to enable a greater number of our students to succeed.”**



# Key Recommendations

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- **Increase college & career readiness**
- **Strengthen support for entering students**
- **Incentivize successful student behaviors**
- **Align course offerings to meet student needs**
- **Improve education of basic skills students**
- **Align resources with student success recommendations**



## Question Two

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**What really works to  
help students  
succeed?**



# Magic Practices

- **Learning Communities**
- **First-Year Experience**
- **Contextual Instruction**
- **Project-Based Learning**
- **Supplemental Instruction**
- **Student Success Course**
- **Dual Enrollment**
- **Early College High School**



# **“Best Practices”**

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**“While colleges will likely need to adopt some new practices and adapt some older practices, practice-based reforms cannot be the primary work undertaken by colleges participating in Completion by Design.”**

**Venezia, Bracco, & Nodine 2011**



# **“Best Practices”**

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**Adopting discrete “best practices” and trying to bring them to scale will not work to improve student completion on a substantial scale.**

**Davis Jenkins**

**April 2011—CCRC**





# Guidelines for Student Success

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- 1. Every student will make a significant connection with another person at the college as soon as possible.**



# Guidelines for Student Success

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**2. Key intake programs including orientation, assessment, advisement, and placement will be integrated and mandatory.**



# Student Success Task Force

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**“Colleges are required to also consider other measures of a student’s ability to succeed, such as academic history and demonstrated motivation.”**

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# SuccessNavigator--ETS

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**Knowing whether a student will succeed in college requires a holistic understanding of a student's strengths and vulnerabilities in areas such as motivation, social support, and time management.**



# What Is SuccessNavigator?

- A 30-minute online assessment for incoming students
- Better placement in college level or developmental courses
- A model for early warning, advising, and acceleration

[ets.org/successnavigator](https://ets.org/successnavigator)

[vmonaghan@ets.org](mailto:vmonaghan@ets.org)



# Guidelines for Student Success

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**3. Every student will be placed in a “Program of Study” from day one; undecided students will be placed in a mandatory “Program of Study” designed to help them decide.**



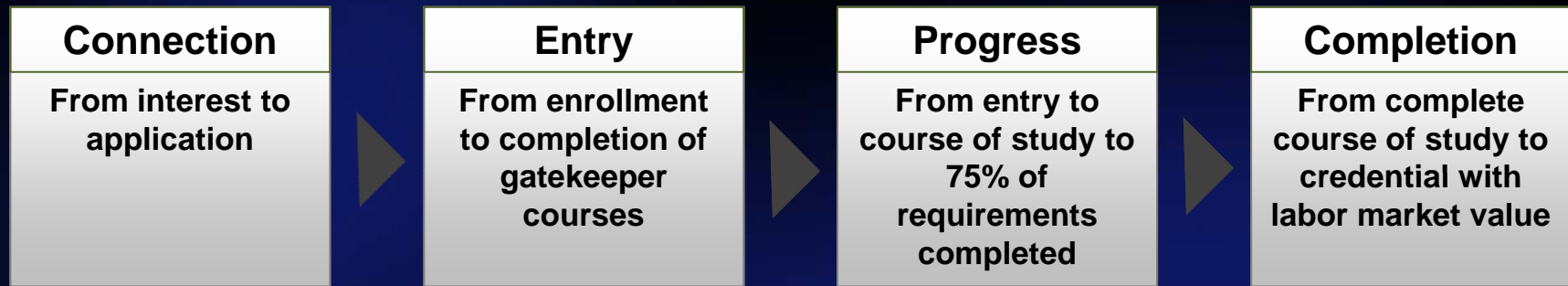
# Guidelines for Student Success

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**4. Every student who enrolls to pursue a certificate, degree, or who plans to transfer will work with college personnel to create a Student Success Pathway—a Roadmap to Completion.**



# Student Success Pathway



BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*





# Pathway Components

Connecting  
to high  
schools



Preparing to  
begin classes



Providing  
remediation

Providing  
classroom  
instruction



Monitoring  
first-term  
progress



Preparing for  
completion &  
next steps



Preparing for  
subsequent  
terms



Celebrating  
milestones &  
completion



# Roadmap Project Pathways

- **Salt Lake CC—Roadmap Action Plan**
- **Prince George's CC—Road to Success**
- **Lane CC—GPS/Guide to Personal Success**
- **Miami-Dade—Roadmap to Completion**
- **Mt. San Antonio CC—Digital Roadmap**
- **Valencia College—LifeMap**
- **Harper College—Student Lifecycle**
- **Indian River—Individual Advising Plan**



# Guidelines for Student Success

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**5. Every student will be carefully monitored throughout the first term to ensure successful progress; the college will make interventions immediately to keep students on track.**



# Guidelines for Student Success

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**6. Students will engage in courses and experiences designed to broaden and deepen their learning.**



# Employer Views

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**“To achieve professional and career success in today’s global economy, I would advise a young person to pursue a liberal education.”**

**Response from 74% of 318 employers in a survey by AAC&U  
January 2013**



# **Core Mission of Education**

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**In the final analysis our work is about improving and expanding student learning through quality services and quality teaching.**

**Completion is a valuable by-product of that work.**



# Terry O'Banion

*Ancora Imparo*  
“Still I Am Learning.”

Michelangelo

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# Key Resource

***Access, Success, and Completion:  
A Primer for Community College  
Faculty, Administrators, Staff and  
Trustees***

**Terry O'Banion**

**Order from League for Innovation:**

- **480-705-8200 ext. 200**
- **[www.league.org/store](http://www.league.org/store)**

