

# Harris-Stowe State University

## Update on MCA Initiatives



# Team Introductions

- Dr. Dwaun Warmack, President
- Dr. Dwyane Smith, VP for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Michelle McClure, Assistant VP for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Fara Zakery, Dean of the Anheuser-Busch School of Business
- Ms. LaShanda Boone, VP for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
- Ms. Anne Grice, Director of the Academic Resource Center
- Mr. David Barnes, Instructor of Mathematics
- Ms. Rozina Little, Instructor of English/Composition
- Mr. James Fogt, VP for Strategic Planning and IT Services
- Ms. Meaghan Ong, Coordinator for Institutional Research

# Completion strategies at HSSU

- **Co-requisite coursework**
  - **Key activities:** Analyze previous-year's data to estimate cohort; Identify eligible cohort in current data; Design courses
  - **Key people:** VP Academic Affairs, Assistant VP Academic Affairs, VP Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Dean of A&S, Director of Academic Resource Center; college-level math/English faculty developmental math/English faculty, Coordinator of Institutional Research, Director of Admissions
  - **Target pilot group:** First-time Freshmen needing remedial coursework in composition *or* math (not both)
  - **Status:** In pilot

# Completion strategies at HSSU

- **Block scheduling**
  - **Key activities:** Devise replicable block model with embedded co-requisites; Devise replicable block model with all college-level Gen-Ed requirements; Formalize enrollment process
  - **People involved:** Registrar, Assistant VP Academic Affairs, Coordinator of Institutional Research, VP Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Dean of A&S, college-level math/English faculty developmental math/English faculty
  - **Target pilot group:** First-time Freshmen
  - **Status:** In pilot

# Completion strategies at HSSU

- 15-to-Finish
  - **Key activities:** Devise marketing to enhance awareness of the institution's favorable tuition structure; Continue to ensure students are encouraged to take 15-16 credit hours per semester; Utilize early-alert system (Jenzabar's FinishLine) to identify and address student challenges (specifically attendance/grade issues reported by instructors)
  - **Key people involved:** University Relations staff, advising staff, admissions staff, VP Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Director of Admissions and Retention
  - **Target pilot group:** First-time Freshmen
  - **Status:** In progress

# Completion strategies at HSSU

- Proactive (intrusive) advising:
  - **Key activities:** Intentional outreach via email and phone calls; Improved awareness and utilization of the online early-alert system; Encouraging direct student interaction and inquiry in informal settings (e.g. hallways, dining hall, student center, etc.)
  - **Key people involved:** VP Academic Affairs, VP Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, advising staff, all faculty and staff
  - **Target pilot group:** Freshmen
  - **Status:** in progress

# About Campus Engagement

- Multiple campus-wide presentations to faculty, staff, administrators
- Shared online project plan
- Regular updates to Board of Regents
- Visits and presentations by MDHE (Dr. David Russell –Fall 2014; Dr. Rusty Monhollon-spring 2014)

# Challenges

- Small qualifying pilot cohort of remedial students (most students are classified as developmental)
- Resource continuity (staffing changes)
- Marketing (communicating the value-proposition can be improved )

# Solutions to challenges

- Consider redesigning cohort models that apply to remedial and developmental students
- Formalize resource allocation through the strategic-planning process
- Formalize marketing plan through the strategic-planning process

# Lessons Learned

- Build awareness of the program's value propositions
- Simplify processes for cohort management
- Distribute responsibilities (the MCA team is not enough—assign sub-committees with clear, targeted objectives)
- Assume the team will change and plan for continuity in the wake of change

# Issues Yet to be Resolved

- Assessment of co-requisite model efficacy
- Program capacity and scalability
- Resource alignment for sustainability



# Questions/Conversations

- Five minutes



# Supplementary Information

## 2013 Freshmen Cohort

■ Old Standards    ■ New Standards

