



State Council of
Higher Education for Virginia

A Report to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia: “Institutional Intervention: Programs Supporting Student Success”

March 11, 2008



Why intervention?

Institutional thinking on student success through intervention

- New thinking for new populations of students, e.g., low-income, underrepresented groups
- Student needs span spectrum of academic, financial, and social issues
- Solomon's choice still vital to the equation
- Particular focus on academic skill development
- Attention to state interests in specialized areas (STEM)
- Value of high school/postsecondary school relationships
- Attention to pre-college and post-college admission students
 - Pre-admission: Middle/high school;
 - Post-admission: freshmen, lower/upperclassmen, etc.
- Variable methods of delivery



Diverse Commitments

Pre-college admission

1. At risk students
2. STEM focus
3. Personal Counseling
4. Comprehensive literacy and counseling

Post-college admission

- Diverse strategies
 - Administrative reorganization
 - Resource deployment
 - School – student compacts
 - Cohort creation



Pre-college intervention

1. At-risk students

- CNU – Captains for Excellence
- JMU – Male Academy and Female Institute
- ODU – Rally program
- RBC – Middle College Program
- UMW – James Farmer Scholar Program
- UVAW – Upward Bound
- VMI – Tutor Program



Pre-college intervention

JMU Male Academy/Female Institute

- Gender-specific, pre-college summer programs for underrepresented students
- Two week residential experience – affective and cognitive focus
- Curricular and co-curricular content
 - Wellness
 - Leadership
 - Writing
 - Science
 - Math
- 2007
 - Male Academy (44 participants)
 - Female Institute (77 participants)



Pre-college intervention

UVAW Upward Bound Program

- Federal TRIO program participant
- Targeted at low-income and/or first generation students
- Partners with 10 area high schools
- Mix of activities over the school year
 - Academic skill development
 - Social support (financing college information)
 - Introduction to campus life
- Summer 2007 – 44 students



Pre-college intervention

VMI Tutor Program

- Lexington school system partnership
- Cadets tutor middle school students (basic skills)
- Mentor special education and other high risk students
- Variation on “citizen – soldier” emphasis



Pre-college intervention

2. STEM Focus

- NSU - Saturday Scientist Academy
- CWM N-Star Demonstration Project
- UVAW – Wise County Math & Science Initiative



Pre-college intervention

NSU Saturday Scientist Academy

- University student tutors in science (biology & chemistry) for local high-school students preparing for SOL course exit exams

CWM N-Star Demonstration Project

- Partners: CWM, Stafford County School, Naval Warfare Center, Dahlgren
- Academic skills development: science, math, & technology
- Guidance on future careers in science and engineering

UVAW – Wise County Math/Science Initiative

- Partners with county board and public school system
- Provides tuition & textbooks for talented high school students
- Courseware: calculus, advanced calculus, physics



Pre-college intervention

3. Personal Counseling

- CWM – New Horizons Family Counseling Center
- UVA - College Guide Program
- UVA – P-16 Education Council
- VCCS – Career Coaches



Pre-college intervention

UVA – College Guide Program

- Advisement for high school students
- Trained UVA graduates
 - Admission process
 - Financial aid
 - Scholarship
- Selected high schools with low college matriculation rates

VCCS – Career Coaches

- Community college employees housed in local high schools
- Serve as community college outreach office in the high schools
- Guide students into early college programs
 - 46,000 contacts in 2006-07
 - 14,600 educational plans
- 6.5% CC enrollment increase from schools with coaches



Pre-college intervention

4. Comprehensive Literacy and Counseling

Longwood University

Center for Communication, Literacy & Training

- Southside emphasis
- Diagnostic and tutoring services – children and adults
- Reading, math, sciences, social studies
- Speech and language services
- “Stay in school” programs
- High school degree emphasis
- “Breaking the cycle” contribution
- Affordability: student and family issue
- Access and success: student and family issue
- In our interests to get more information to families



Post-college Admission

CNU

- Freshman learning communities - cohorts
- Extended advising (freshmen and undecided upperclassmen)
- Restructured Provost's Office for student success

ODU

- University College
 - Coordinates academic support campus-wide
 - Coordinates retention activities campus-wide
 - Each academic college: triad of advisors
 - Success advisor
 - Career advisor
 - Major advisor
 - Retention rate: 61% to 76% (last 14 years)



Post-college Admission

VCU

- “Compact” Concept
- Focused Inquiry I and II – freshman courses
- University promise
 - Students and families
 - Skills and knowledge for success
 - Quantitative literacy
 - Higher expectations
 - Sense of community

JMU

- Attention to provisionally-admitted students
- Additional academic-support advising
- Identifies at-risk students and creates support systems
- Mandatory or recommended



Conclusion

“Takeaways” from study of intervention activities

- Every institution involved in some aspect of pre- and/or post-college admission intervention
- Six-year plans provide extensive evidence of institutional commitment to access and success (retention and degree awards)
 - VCU – Level III
- Systemic changes evident as well
 - Administrative reorganization
 - Teaching and learning shifts
 - Compacts
 - Cohorts
- Application of resources to K-12 and college students
- Attention paid to cognitive and affective needs of students