THE PERFECT STORM: A STATE WIDE CONFERENCE ON RETENTION

February 14, 2010

29th Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience
Foundational Dimensions ® constitute a model that provides institutions with a means to evaluate and improve the first year of college.
The foundation was renamed from Rockwin Fund to the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation (WRF) in 1974 after Governor Rockefeller’s death. The foundation is dedicated to furthering education, economic development and racial and social justice in the state of Arkansas.

Winthrop Rockefeller Grant Awarded

Foundations of Excellence: A Partnership for improving New Student Success in Arkansas Two-Year Colleges given to the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges and the Policy Center on the First Year of College.
STUDENT SUCCESS

SYMPOSIUM

Two-Year Colleges

Rockefeller Foundation

Foundation of Excellence

STUDENT SUCCESS SYMPOSIUM
Four Arkansas Two Year Colleges Selected for Project

All four final Foundations of Excellence reports identified a lack of professional development as an issue.
STUDENT SUCCESS SYMPOSIUM
ACCESS TO SUCCESS
INCREASING ARKANSAS'S COLLEGE GRADUATES PROMOTES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Final Report of the Arkansas Task Force on Higher Education Remediation, Retention, and Graduation Rates:
A Plan for Increasing the Number of Arkansans with Bachelor’s Degrees
August 2008
Act 570 requires the Task Force to:

Compile state and national research on reducing remediation, improving retention, and increasing graduation rates.

Summarize data on rates of remediation, types of testing used to determine college readiness, characteristics of programs that are most effective in addressing skill deficits, and effectiveness of remediation for students with entering skill deficits.

Create a definition of remediation to assure consistency in reporting of remediation among colleges and universities throughout Arkansas.

Identify the underlying factors that contribute to the number of students who are not ready for collegiate level classes in certain disciplines at the time of high school graduation.

Identify best practices examples of school systems and colleges that are having success in reducing the need for remedial education.

Brainstorm new approaches that may be effective in producing increased levels of college readiness.

Attempt to clarify the role that various types of colleges and universities should play in addressing the need for remediation.

Review graduation rates of the state’s colleges and universities for the past six years.

Develop a set of written recommendations for the General Assembly that will improve remediation, retention, and graduation rates at the state’s colleges and universities.

Present the written recommendations of the Task Force to the General Assembly by November 1, 2008.
STUDENT SUCCESS SYMPOSIUM
KNOWLEDGEABLE CITIZENS

The future economy of Arkansas will have to be a knowledge-based economy, and the key to a knowledge-based economy is having knowledgeable citizens.
Arkansas Ranks Low In Adults With Bachelor’s Degrees And Is Not Developing An Educated Workforce

Arkansas 18.2%
SREB States 22.5%
United States 24.4%

U.S. Census Bureau, www.census.gov
No state with a low proportion of Bachelor’s degrees has a high per capita income.

No state with a high proportion of Bachelor’s degrees has a low per capita income.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2006
Arkansas Fact

Arkansas exceeds many SREB states in the number of high school graduates who enter college.

-SREB (Southern Regional Education Board)
College-Going Rates—First-Time Freshmen Directly Out of High School as a Percent of Recent High School Graduates, 2002

Source: Tom Mortenson, Postsecondary Opportunity
96-97 Arkansas 9th Grader’s Progression into High School and College (number)

9th Grade Enrollment: 37,160
High School Grads: 27,335
Enrolled Directly into College: 17,116
First-time Full-time Degree Seeking Cohort: 15,172 (100%)
Retained After 1 Year: 10,701 (71%)
Graduated Within 6 Years: 5,817
With Associate Degree: 1,493 (28%)
Bachelor Degree: 4,324

Fall 2000 College Freshmen
Access to Success Recommendations
(Increasing Retention and Graduation Rates)

a) Require each university to submit a retention/graduation plan.

b) Hold an annual statewide conference to support best practices in retention.
It was a dark and stormy night...

Actually it was a summer lunch.

Brainstorm - Leadership - Risk Taking - Planning - Decisions - Execution
STUDENT SUCCESS SYMPOSIUM
Statewide Gathering Outcomes

- Better Economy for Arkansas
- Better Careers
- Graduation Rates
- Retention of Students
- Educational Sharing
- Communication
Student Success Symposium
Resources

- Rockefeller Foundation
- Perkins Grant & Career Pathways Initiative
- Conference Fee
- University of Central Arkansas and Pulaski Technical College
- Two-Year, Four Year, and Private Colleges
Grants
Rockefellers
Perkins
Achieving a
Dream

Arkansas
Dept. of
Higher Ed.
UCA, Pulaski
Tech

Belief
Desire
Motivation
Drive

Foundation
s of
Excellence

Individuals
Commitment
Dedication
Each One, Reach One:

2008 New Student Symposium

April 2-3, 2008
Pulaski Technical College
North Little Rock, AR
Pulaski Technical College
2008
Speakers:
Sybill Hampton
John Gardner
Greg Lampe
Phyllis Curtis-Tweed
Tom Carskadon
Wendy Troxel
University of Central Arkansas
April 1-2, 2009

Dr. Christine Johnson McPhail
Dr. John Gardner
Dr. Joe Cuseo
Dr. Betsy O. Barefoot
Dr. Scott Evenbeck
Dr. Jocelyn Harney
Dr. Jean Henscheid
Statewide Gathering Outcomes

1. Communication
2. Educational Sharing
3. Retention of Students
4. Graduation Rates
5. Better Careers
6. Better Economy for Arkansas
Riding the Storm Waves

Executive Director, Arkansas Association of Two Year Colleges
Executive Director, Arkansas Association of Public Universities
Executive Director, Arkansas Independent Colleges and Universities
Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education
Associate Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education
Coordinator, Federal Grant Programs: Achieving The Dream Task Force, Arkansas Department of Higher Education
President, John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education
Co-Liaison, Professional Development Coordinator, Pulaski Technical College
Co-Liaison, Chair of College Studies, Pulaski Technical College
Co-Directors, Foundations of Excellence Task Force, University of Central Arkansas
Associate Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, University of Central Arkansas
For Students: Smooth sailing in calm waters...