

# **MAPS (MONITORED ACADEMIC PREPARATION FOR SUCCESS):**

## **COACHING AT-RISK STUDENTS OF COLOR**

17<sup>th</sup>. National Conference on Students in  
Transition  
November 15, 2010  
Houston, Texas

# Presenters:



**Vickie Bridgeman**  
**REACH**  
**Dir., Academic Development**



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Assoc. Dir., Cultural Center  
Advisor, Porter Scholars



**Jim Porter**  
**REACH**  
**Academic Development  
Specialist**



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# University of Louisville

## Kentucky's metropolitan research university



• Student body: 21,761  
(As of Fall 2008)

■ 5,495 undergraduate

■ 4,305 graduate

■ 1,961 professional (Medical, Dental, Law)

■ 17,259 in-state

■ 10,278 Jefferson County

■ 6,981 other KY counties

■ 4,502 out-of-state

■ 63% of first-time freshmen live on campus

14 Fulbright Scholars were selected from UofL for 2010-2011

# Objectives

- **Provide information about MAPS program**
  - **Demonstrate how MAPS is a collaboration between two university units (REACH and the Cultural Center)**
  - **Define the role of the REACH Academic Development Specialists**
  - **Share data on the MAPS program**
  - **Provide opportunity to discuss retention initiatives that are working at other institutions**
- Please hold questions until the end of the presentation.



**Created in 2000, REACH (Resources for Academic Achievement) is:**

- **the central support unit for undergraduate students**
- **a unit of Undergraduate**

**Affairs under the umbrella of the Provost.**

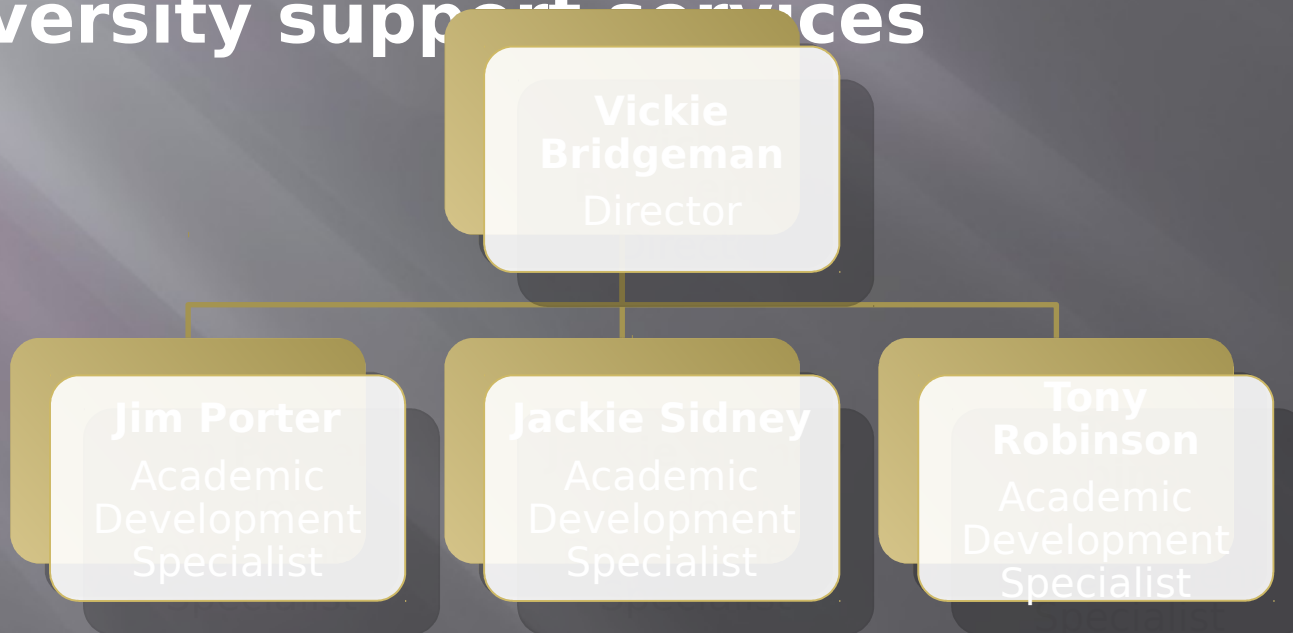
**Services include:**

- **Learning Resource Center (scheduled tutoring)**
- **Supplemental Instruction (SI)**
- **Learning Assistance (LA)**
- **Math Resource Center/Virtual Math Center**
- **Computer Resource Centers**
- **Student Success Seminars**
- **REACH Ambassadors (mentoring program)**

# REACH Academic

Created in 2005 as a retention initiative  
to: **Development Office**

- Provide intensive academic support to targeted at-risk student populations
- Assist students with transition from high school to college
- Connect students to REACH and university support services





# Woodford R. Porter Scholarship

- **Criteria**
  - Kentucky Resident
  - GPA range
  - ACT range
  - African American
- **Terms of Agreement**
  - Academic Engagement
    - Required to attend Porter College
  - Grades
    - Must maintain a 3.0 GPA; Student who fall below are required to participate in MAPS
  - Enrollment
    - Must be enrolled as a full time student each fall & spring
  - Appeals
    - Students who cannot meet the requirements of the scholarship due to extenuating circumstances can file an appeal

# **The MAPS Program**

## **(Monitored Academic Preparation for Success)**

- **Retention initiative for scholarship recipients**
- **6 year collaborative effort between REACH and the Cultural Center**
- **Porter Scholars with less than 60 hours, with GPA below 3.0 at end of fall semester**
- **Mandatory (Spring only)**



# The Process

**Students attend a MAPS Information Session (multiple sessions held during week before spring classes begin)**

- **Requirements and expectations of program**
- **Students sign consent agreements**
- **“REACHing Your Potential: Developing a Plan for Academic Success”**
  - **Personal assessment**
  - **Academic support services**
  - **Goal setting**
  - **Time management**
  - **Study strategies**
- **Small group discussions led by REACH staff**
- **Students schedule first ADS appointment**

# The Consent Agreement

- **Three appointments with ADS**
- **Attend and participate in all classes**
- **Attend/participate in all REACH study sessions or tutoring recommended by ADS**
- **Attend/participate in additional campus support services recommended by ADS**
- **Be willing to consider new study habits, unsuccessful study behaviors, and life style changes based on recommendations of ADS, REACH and Porter Society mentors**
- **Attend session with Financial Aid representative for information on additional/alternative sources of tuition**

# Meetings with ADS

**Scheduled at strategic intervals during semester**

- **First appointment: ADS establishes relationship with student; develops academic support plan; refers student to appropriate support services**
- **Second appointment: ADS reviews student's progress; monitors participation in support services on TutorTrac; makes adjustments to academic support plan as needed**
- **Third appointment: ADS assists students to develop post mid-term strategies; student completes evaluation of program**

**ADS enters advising notes for each session on AdvisorTrac**

# The Academic Support Plan



## **A Prescription for Success**

Students who follow their academic support plan will have the tools and resources to improve their GPA.

**It's up to the student to put the plan into action!**

# So, how are we doing?

## **Of the 92 MAPS students in Spring 2010:**

- **The mean Fall 2009 GPA was 2.16**
- **13 earned (14.1%) achieved cumulative 3.0 or above at end of semester**
- **ADS appointments with students had a positive relationship related to Spring 2010 cumulative GPAs**
- **previous fall semester GPA had the highest determining effect on spring academic performance**
- **87% indicated that ADS advising sessions helped them better handle personal lives and focus more on academics**
- **88% rated REACH tutors and academic support as excellent**
- **78% rated the MAPS Seminar as excellent**
- **100% indicated that REACH tutoring services encouraged them to be more academically focused than in the fall semester**

# Fall 2009 Porter College Program

Our research indicates that performance in the first semester is **critical** for students who are required to achieve and maintain the standards of the Porter Scholarship.

- **First-year intervention program offered to Porter Scholars during first-year fall semester**
- **Voluntary participation**
- **Consent agreement**
- **3 required appointments with ADS for academic coaching**
- **Academic support plan**
- **Attend 2 REACH Student Success Seminars**

# Porter College Results

- 77 students began the program; 71 completed
- 27 earned a 3.0 or higher GPA
- 17 earned a GPA between 2.5 - 2.9
- 13 earned a GPA between 2.0 - 2.4
- 57 earned a 2.0 or higher GPA
- Participants earned a statistically significant higher average compared to the Fall 2008 Porter Scholars



# “THE JOURNEY TO MAPS”

**Phyllis Clark, M.Ed  
Leondra Gully, M.Ed  
University of Louisville**



# University of Louisville Cultural Center



## Vision

- **Our vision is an inclusive and accepting campus climate free of bias and hate where students, faculty, staff, and alumni work together to create positive change in the community.**

## Mission and Goals

- **The Cultural Center:**
  - **creates educational opportunities for members of the university community to critically think about their beliefs, values and assumptions as it relates to culture.**
  - **We support and offer co-curricular and extra-curricular programs that acknowledge and reflect the experiences of under-represented populations.**
- **The underlying goals are to:**
  - **provide Advocacy for our students, celebrate the diverse cultures of the campus community, Engage students in social justice issues, and Support the scholarship and retention of U of L students.**

# Woodford R. Porter Scholarship “The Story of Porter”



## **Who is Woodford R. Porter?**

- **Civic, business, and education leader**
- **First African American of UofL Board of Trustees**

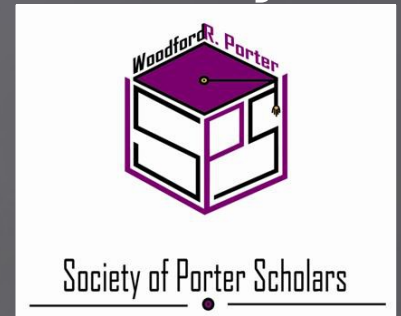
**In 1984, UofL created a Minority Retention Plan to retain minority students at the University.**

- **The Woodford R. Porter Scholarship program was developed in 1985.**
- **The Society of Porter Scholars was also established as a support mechanism for the scholarship recipients.**

# Society of Porter Scholars (SPS)

## What is it?

- **The Society of Porter Scholars is the largest African American scholarship organization at the University of Louisville.**
- **Founded on 4 pillars:**
  - **Scholarship**
  - **Heritage**
  - **Leadership**
  - **Service**
- **It provides academic and social support to Porter Scholarship recipients.**
- **It promotes interaction and enhances leadership opportunities**
- **Led by student executive board**



# Porter College™

- **Provides incoming freshman scholars with the opportunity to experience the journey from freshman to alumni over the course of 3-4 days prior to first of class.**
  - **All activities/events are based on the four pillars of the scholarship**
  - **Goal: Help scholars gain significant awareness of and begin to develop the skills necessary to ensure academic success**

## **Some highlights of Porter College include:**

- **Meet the family of Mr. Woodford R. Porter, Sr.**
- **Connect students to community service opportunities**
- **Identify personality traits and individual strengths**
- **Learn about retention and support programs available**
- **Introduce the value of critical thinking skills**
- **Network with fellow scholars, faculty and staff**
- **Collaborate with First Year Initiatives during Welcome Weekend**



# Porter College™

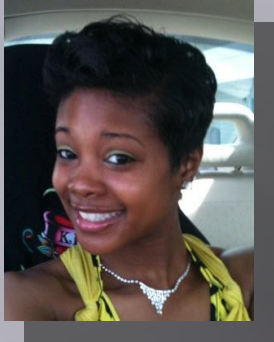
## Student Testimonials

**Dorcea Brown, Senior, Pan-African Studies Major & Psychology Minor  
(PC student volunteer and facilitator)**

*“I feel like Porter College was a wonderful experience for all new and current scholars. I believe this opportunity helped to ease the tension and anxiety that most college students face while entering college. Porter College provided the opportunity for students to have an up close & personal connection with current scholars, university faculty and staff. Students were able to engage in workshops that geared towards their success inside and outside the classroom as well as how those resources can be helpful with their achievement in the Society. If nothing else, Porter College illustrated to incoming Porters that they have people who really care about their well-being, their success and their growth at the University of Louisville. “*







**Gillian Griggs, Sophomore, Middle School Education with a concentration in Mathematics (Year 1 PC participant and Year 2 volunteer)**

***"Porter College for me was more than just a way to beat the move in rush. Porter College enabled me to learn more about myself, how to survive and succeed in college, and most importantly the value, respect, and responsibility that came along with the opportunity of being a Porter Scholar. I am happy to have been apart of the inaugural Porter College because it put me on the right track to lasting friendships with other Porter Scholars as well as being a well equipped college student."***

Fall 2010 Porter L.Y.F.E.

## “Living Your Full-potential, Everyday”

- Non-compulsory transitional experience
- First-year intervention program offered to Porter Scholars during first-year fall semester
- Consent agreement
- 3 required appointments with ADS for academic coaching
  - **Utilization of LASSI (Learning and Study Strategies Inventory) results**
- Academic support plan

**SPS NEW Membership Initiative**  
**Introducing PorterPerks™**

*Helping Scholars who help themselves...*

- The Society of Porter Scholars will officially recognize the individual membership of all official Porter Scholars through on-going identification of “active” status of each scholar.

# What is Active Status?

1. Maintaining cumulative GPA set forth by your scholarship terms of agreement
2. Accruing a minimum of 100 PorterPerks™ points per month
3. Self-reporting midterm grades and reflection once per semester by predetermined deadline
4. Paying your \$5.00 membership dues (per semester) by predetermined deadline

**Failure to adhere to any of the above criteria at the time of administrative review will result in “inactive” status code.**

# HOW SCHOLARS EARN PORTERPERKS™

Pillar	Activity	Point Value
Scholarship	CONNECT (fr only)	3 meetings/50 pts (additional/10 pts)
	Finals Fiesta	20 points
	REACH Seminar	100 points
	REACH Tutoring & SI	50 points
	Individual Action Planning (IAP)	200 points
	Porter LYFE	100 points
	Pan African Studies class *upon passing & completion of course	200 points
	Leadership	Porter Committee(s) *upon completion of Job Duties
Leadership Class (ECPY 355) *upon passing & completion of course		150 points
Listen up Legislators!		200 points
Exec Board Town Hall		30 points

# How scholars earn PorterPerks™

Pillar	Activity	Point Value
Service	SOUL Events	250 points
	On-going "Advisor Picks"	Up to 400 points
	Creating a Porter Service Event	700 points
	Other Community Service (upon approval from advisors)	Up to 300
Heritage	Porter class meeting attendance	70 points
	Porter General Assembly meeting	50 points
	PAS Class *upon passing & completion of course	200 points
	Black Male Rap Session	30 points
	A Sistah's Voice	30 points

# Samples of PorterPerks™

- Flex dollars for your meal card
  - Early registration once approved
  - Gas cards
  - Scholar discounts @ Kroger, Target, Walmart and host of restaurants with which we build partnerships
  - Special drawings for books and supplies
  - Access to the new Porter Bank @ Class Act Credit Union
- .....and more!



# More Samples!

- Additional scholarship opportunities
- Leadership conferences
- Assistance with test-taking fees (GMAT, MCAT, GRE, ACT)
- Internship search assistance
- Community connections and partnerships
- Employment
- Lunch with the Cultural Center Director at the University Club

# Summary

- Provided information about MAPS
- Demonstrated the collaboration between 2 units (REACH and Cultural Center)
- Defined role of Academic Development Specialists
- Shared data on the program

# Questions



and



# Dialogue

Tell us about retention programs for at-risk students at your institution.

# Thanks for attending our presentation!

## Contact Information

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