

Minding the Gap: Creating High School/College Partnerships for Success



Blueprints for Student Success- Montana Project

National Students in Transition Conference, Costa Mesa 2017
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Learning Outcomes and Goals for Today

- + Gain an understanding of the questions and concerns that high school students have about transitioning to college, along with the advice current college students have around student success.
- + Demonstrate practical application of research findings in our work
- + Introduce our game/app, website and Facebook page
- + Brainstorm ways student affairs and services staff may collaborate with recruitment and admissions staff to improve student transitions



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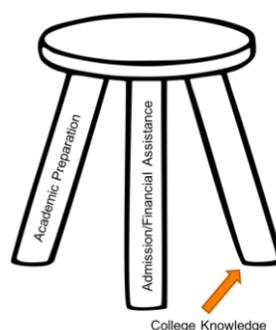
Blueprints for Student Success: Who we are and what we do

- + Researchers who study and support student success.
- + Partner with high school guidance counselors to increase their students' college knowledge.
- + Help students learn the language of college and about the programs and services available to help them succeed.
- + Through use of social media build Montana HS students' knowledge base so they draft their own blueprint for success.



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Overview of the Research



- + **Access agenda** advanced through federal, state and local programs seeks to raise high school students' aspirations and expectations for college.
- + **Completion agenda:** access is an empty promise if students do not have support to complete their degree.
- + Educational silos between HS & college
- + Stabilize the seat of college readiness



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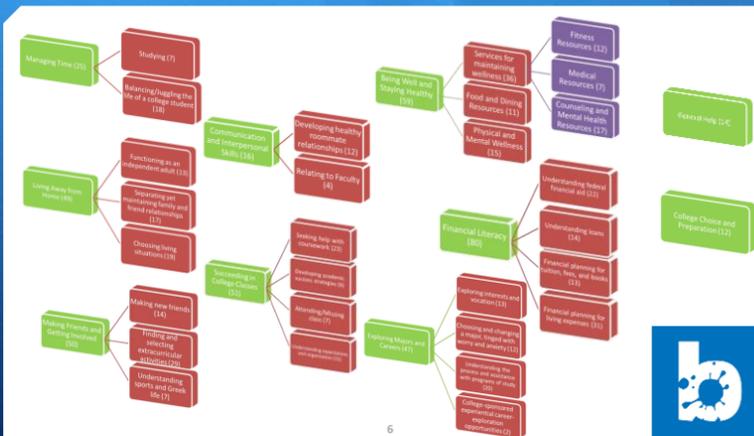
High School Findings - Initial Categories

- + Applying & Enrolling in College
- + Living Away from Home
- + Making Friends & Getting Involved
- + Finding Support & Resources
- + Succeeding in College Classes
- + Being Well & Staying Healthy
- + Exploring Majors & Careers



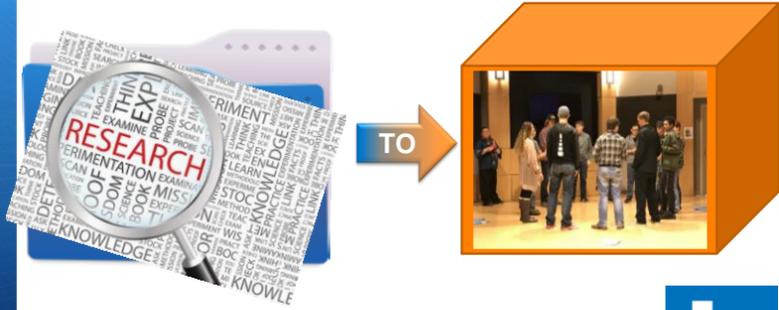
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Emerging Themes



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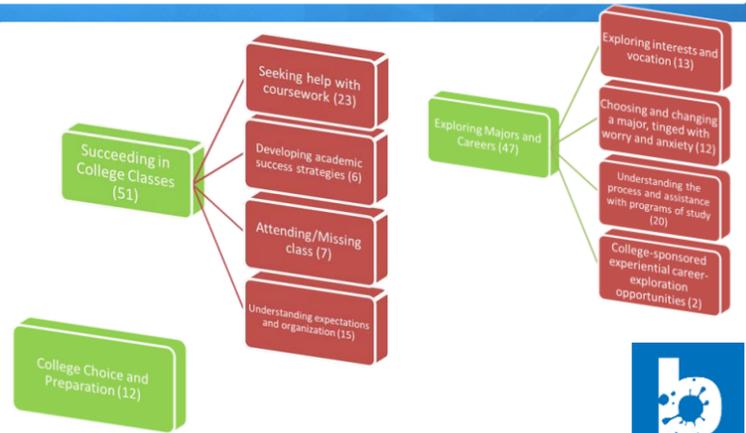
Research To Practice



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Practical Application of Findings



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Practical Application of Findings

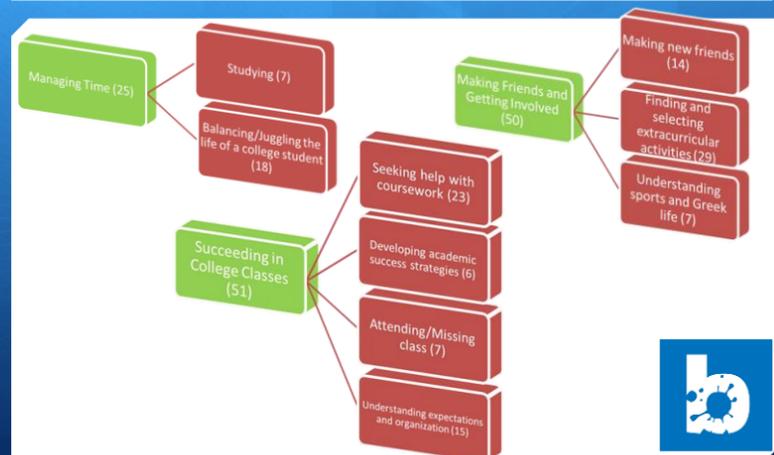
- + 21st Century Outreach – College to Community
- + Knowledge from *Blueprints for Montana* research informed outreach efforts.
- + “Think Like an Engineer” event hosted by Great Falls College for middle to high school students from rural/frontier communities considering careers in engineering or computer science.

High school students participating in Continuous Improvement challenge.



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Practical Application of Findings



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Practical Application of Findings

- + College of Engineering - Advising & Student Resources Hub
- + Narrowing the Gap between students and support
- + Accessible on *their* time table
- + Adaptable to Current Needs
- + Website supports a decentralized, split, shared-services advising model designed to foster relationships between students and their academic department.



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Blueprints College Research

- + Took the high school student questions to college students around the state of Montana.

Institution	# Focus groups	# Student per group
Montana State University	3	2,4,4
Montana State U-Billings	3	7,5,4
Rocky Mountain College	2	3,4
University of Montana	2	2,7

- + Total of 42 students, mix of majors, men and women, and year (first-year-senior)



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Qualitative Analysis and Results

After constant comparative method and analysis by three graduate student researchers, the following substantive categories emerged:

- + Academic Success
- + Learning from diverse others
- + Self-Care
- + High School and College are Different
- + Involvement and Social Connections
- + Major and Career
- + Choosing a College
- + Financial Education
- + Life Skills
- + Identity Development
- + Success Networks
- + Psychological Abilities
- + Connections with Professors



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Research to Practice

Psychological Abilities and Life Skills Themes

I think the hardest part of the transition is that in high school you're constantly reminded, hey, get this done. Even your peers are like, hey did you get this done? Hey, do this. It's easier, but in college, it is up to you... Some people in high school never got to experience a failure, so it is a shock and it's scary.

When you fail you feel like there is nothing you can do and you just want to give up, but there is help, like tutoring has really helped me. With my math and everything- I never had that in high school.

FirstSTEP at EWU (New student orientations)

Discussions/Presentation on what successful college students know and do:

- + Understanding failure is normal and using failure to change behavior



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Current Work and Gaming App

- + Development of gaming app with MSU's Software Factory
- + Free mobile app for high school students and new college students in Montana for practicing culture and norms of higher education (based on information gathered from HS and College Focus groups around Montana)
- + Social Media Presence



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Blueprints (the website) Blueprints (the game)

Hayley Smith
John Trapp
Tyler Mattioli
Jason Sanders


softwarefactory
learn.share.grow.



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Blueprints Home Get Information About and Contact

Applying and Paying for College	Registering and Enrolling	Living Away from Home
Exploring Majors and Careers	Succeeding in College Classes	Being Well and Staying Healthy
Making Friends and Getting Involved	Student Identities	About and Contact



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Blueprints Home Get Information About and Contact

Applying and Paying for College

Admissions	Recruitment
Financial Literacy	Student Accounts

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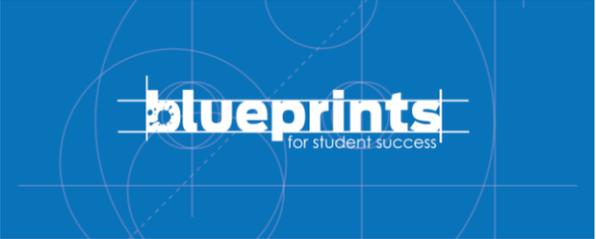


Activity: Think, Pair & Share

+ How do student affairs and recruitment and admissions staff collaborate currently to address prospective students' questions and concerns?

1. What **opportunities** exist to strengthen this collaboration?
2. What are the **barriers** inhibiting closer collaboration?
3. How will these findings influence your practice?

Take three minutes to write down your ideas. We'll pair and then share with the group.

Question & Answer

Connect with us!

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