



NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Trusted Expert and Internationally Recognized Leader
for all Postsecondary Student Transitions

Primer for First-Time Attendees



Jennifer R. Keup, Executive Director

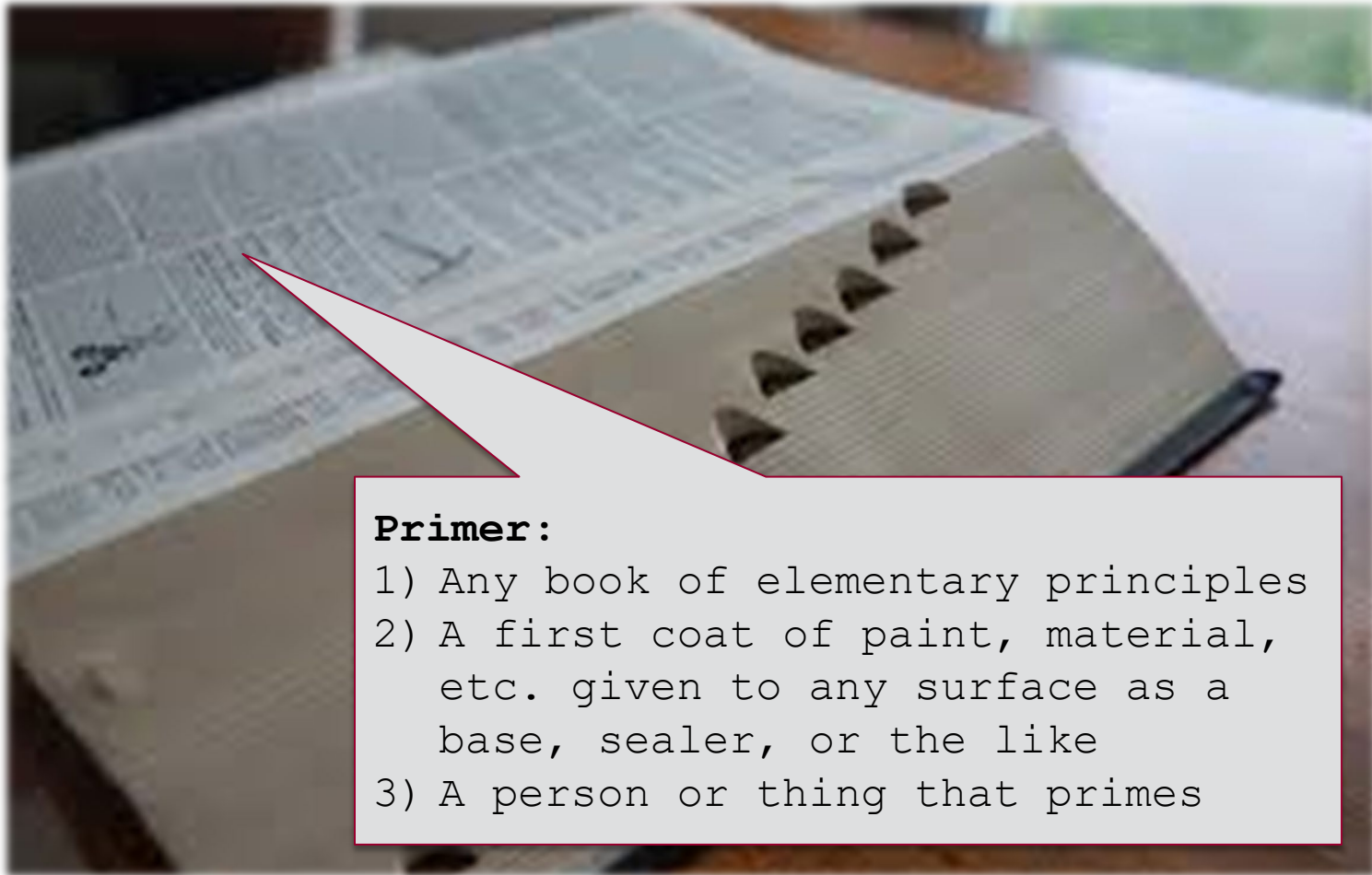
John N. Gardner, Founding Director, Senior Fellow & Distinguished
Professor Emeritus



Jennifer R. Keup, Director

INTRODUCTION

Primer: Definitions



Primer:

- 1) Any book of elementary principles
- 2) A first coat of paint, material, etc. given to any surface as a base, sealer, or the like
- 3) A person or thing that primes



“First-Year Experience”



“The first-year experience is not a single program or initiative, but rather an intentional combination of academic and co-curricular efforts within and across postsecondary institutions.”

(Koch & Gardner, 2006)



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Primer: Goals

- The **historical and cultural context** for the first-year experience/students in transition movement
- The **developmental mileposts** in the work of the National Resource Center
- Current **campus trends** of interest to higher educators
- The **future** of the first-year experience movement and the challenges ahead
- **Strategies** for making the most of the conference



John N. Gardner, Founding Director, Senior Fellow & Distinguished Professor Emeritus

FYE & SIT HISTORY & MILESTONES

Foundations and Beginnings



The nation's top first-year experience program had its roots in campus unrest



Posted on: October 3, 2019; Updated on: October 3, 2019

By Megan Sexton, msexton@mailbox.sc.edu (<mailto:msexton@mailbox.sc.edu>), 803-777-1421

President Thomas F. Jones had a simple goal for a new course the university was creating in the early 1970s: teach students to love the University of South Carolina.

If they care deeply about their university, he reasoned, they would not riot as they had in May 1970, when a group of students ransacked part of the Osborne building, occupied the first floor and trapped Jones and some members of the Board of Trustees on the second floor. The students, protesting the Vietnam War, perceived social injustices and local campus issues, fled when National Guard troops arrived several hours later. As the protesting students and a crowd of onlookers moved to the Horseshoe, they were followed by police and guardsmen, who used tear gas to disperse the crowd. Tensions on campus remained high for several days.

In the summer of 1972, the faculty senate approved a trial course: "University 101, the Student in the University." The course would attempt to build trust and open lines of communication among students, faculty, staff and administrators. It was taught by newly trained faculty and staff members and offered to a few hundred students. Forty-seven years later, University 101 is still being taught — now to about 80 percent of incoming freshmen — helping new students adjust to college life and learn about all the university has to offer.

The No. 1 predictor of a student's decision to stay (in college) is a sense of belonging.

Dan Friedman, director, University 101 programs



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Milestones of Development

1982: First "National Conference on the Freshman Seminar/ Freshman Orientation Course Concept" held at UofSC



1986 -1999:

John N. Gardner serves as executive director of the National Resource Center

1989: *Journal of The Freshman Year Experience* introduced

1991: Center name changed to the National Resource Center for The Freshman Year Experience

1995: First National Conference on Students in Transition

1980

1990

1983: Annual conference series on The Freshman Year Experience begins

1986: National Center for the Study of The Freshman Year Experience established
First International Conference on The First-Year Experience

1988: First monograph and FYE newsletter published
First National Survey on Freshman Seminar Programs conducted

1990: National campaign to recognize Outstanding Freshman Advocates begins

1994: First-Year Experience listserv (FYE-List) established



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Milestones of Development

1997: Senior Year Experience listserv (SYE-List) established

1998: Center name changes to National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience & Students in Transition

1999: Transfer Year Experience listserv (TYE-List) established
Center founder, John Gardner, retires and named Senior Fellow
Stuart Hunter becomes the second director of the National Resource Center



2000

2001: Joint international conference held with Pacific Rim Conference on the First Year in Higher Education

2003: Launch of an electronic newsletter, *E-Source for College Transitions*

2005: Paul P. Fidler Research Grant established

2004: Sophomore Year listserv (SOPH-List) established



2008: Jennifer R. Keup becomes the third director of the National Resource Center

National Resource Center receives 2008 ASHE Special Merit Award



2007: Annual First-Year Experience Conference Undergraduate Student Fellowships established

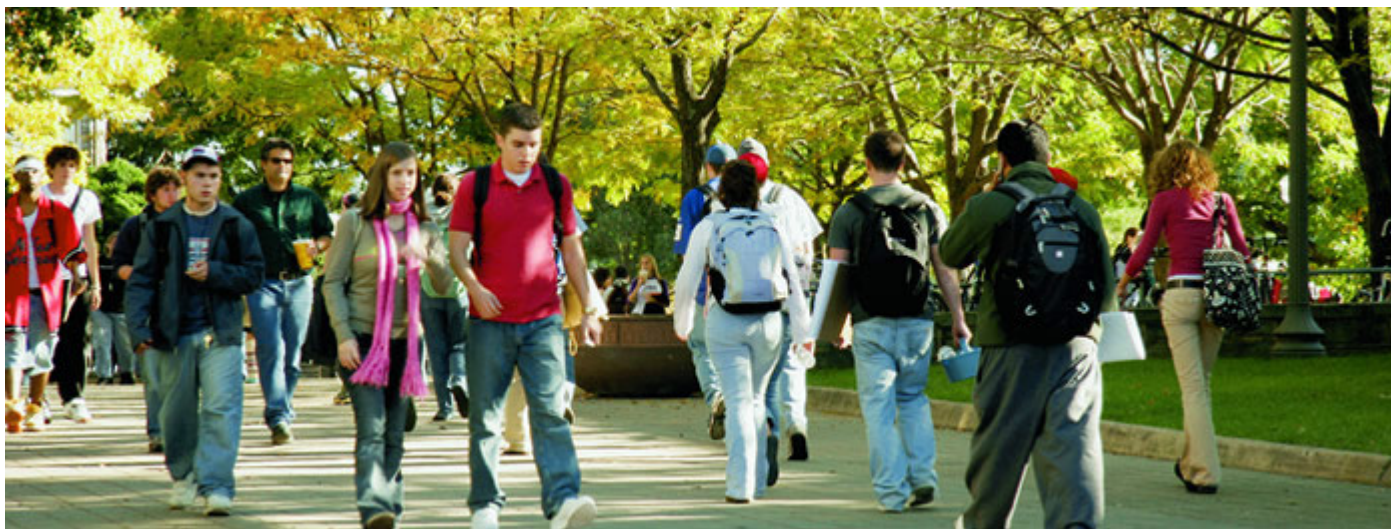


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Milestones of Development





John N. Gardner, Founding Director, Senior Fellow & Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Jennifer R. Keup, Executive Director

CAMPUS TRENDS OF INTEREST

Current Campus Trends of Interest

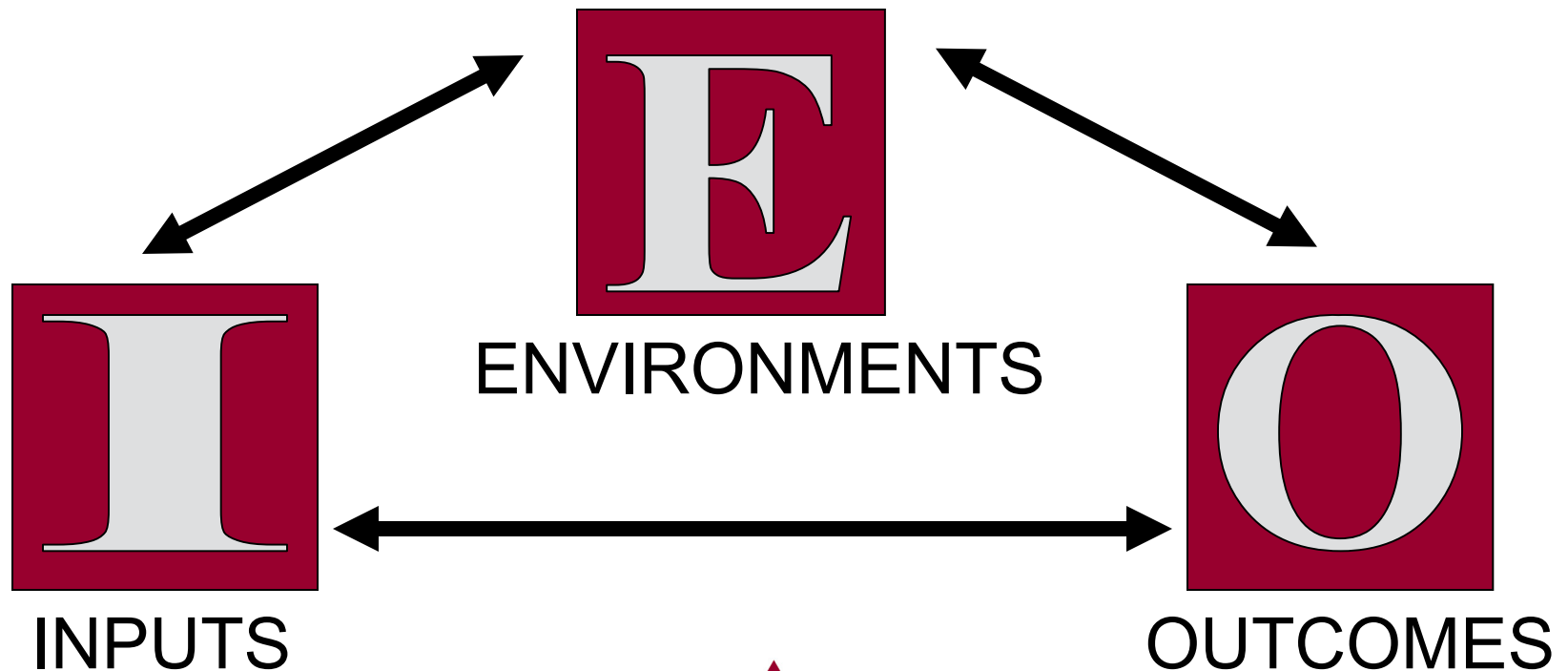
- “Trickle down” effect of pressure on campus leaders from the retention and completion agenda
- The corporatization of “student success work.”
- The new profession of “student success” and resulting realignments
- Connecting student transitions to reaffirmation of accreditation
- Mounting evidence of rising anxiety in undergraduate students

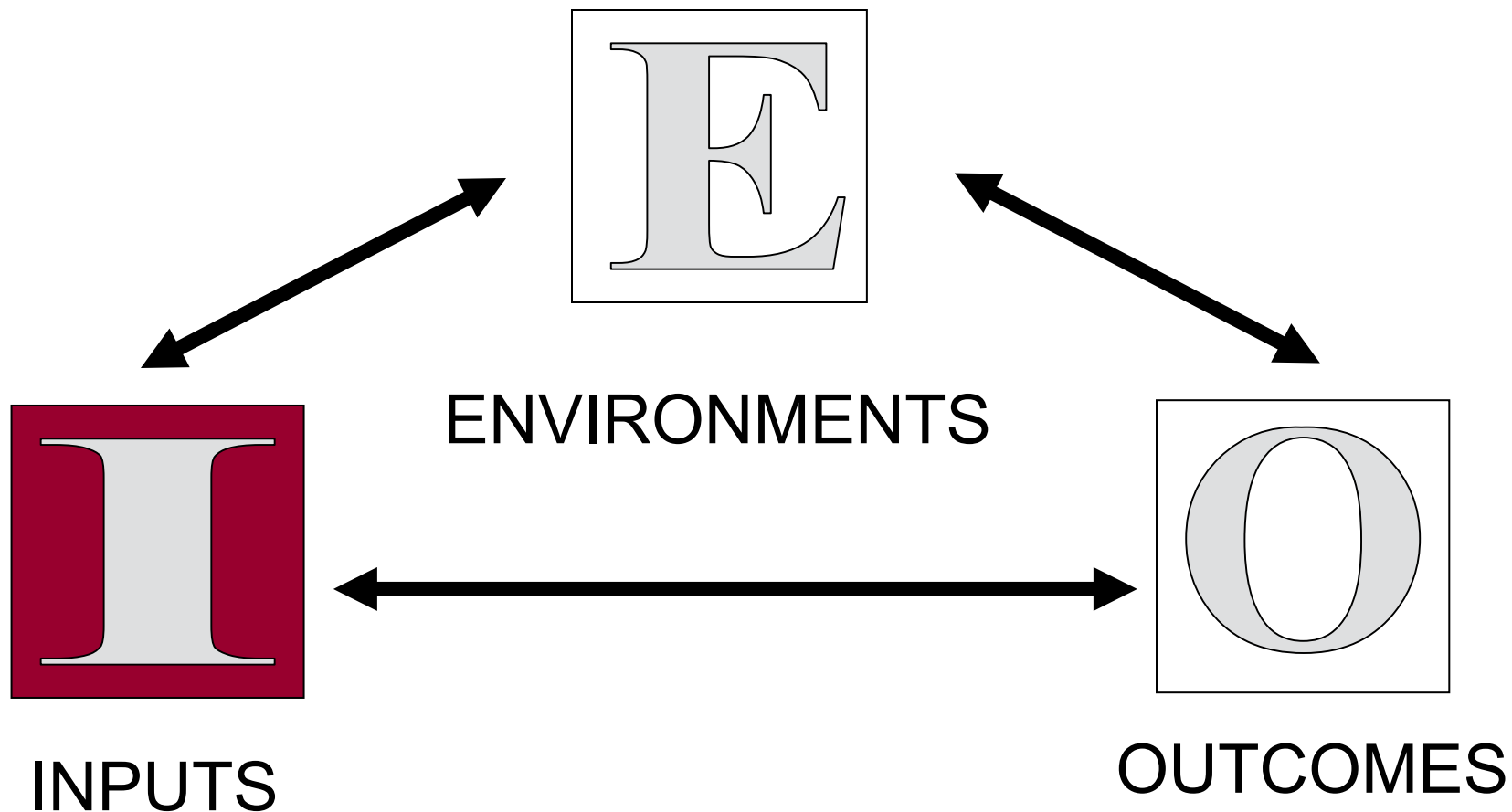
Current Campus Trends of Interest

- Increased attention to the role of faculty in improving student success outcomes
- Challenges to campus “community” in the current political climate
- Increasing skepticism about the value of college
- So what do we do with all this data?
- The “real” first-year experience is not the first-year seminar!
- The emphasis on establishing purpose
- Guided pathways: necessary but not sufficient

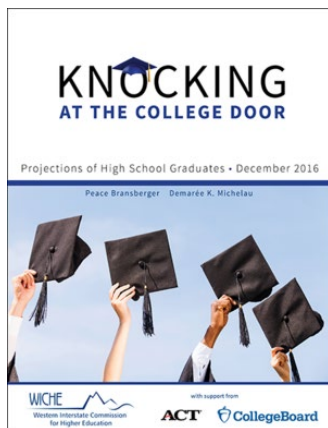
Current Campus Trends of Interest

Theoretical Grounding: I-E-O Model



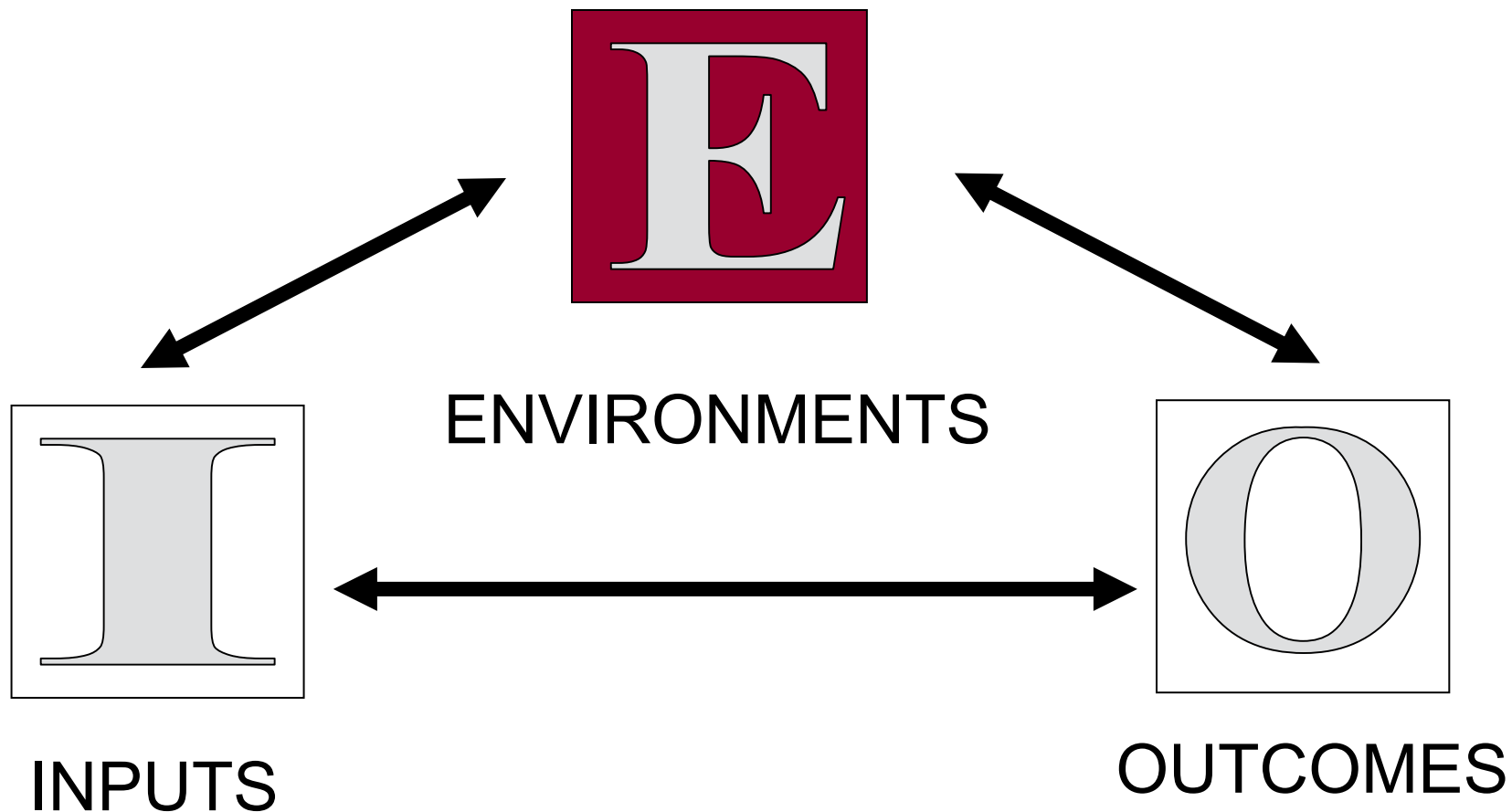


WHO ARE OUR STUDENTS?



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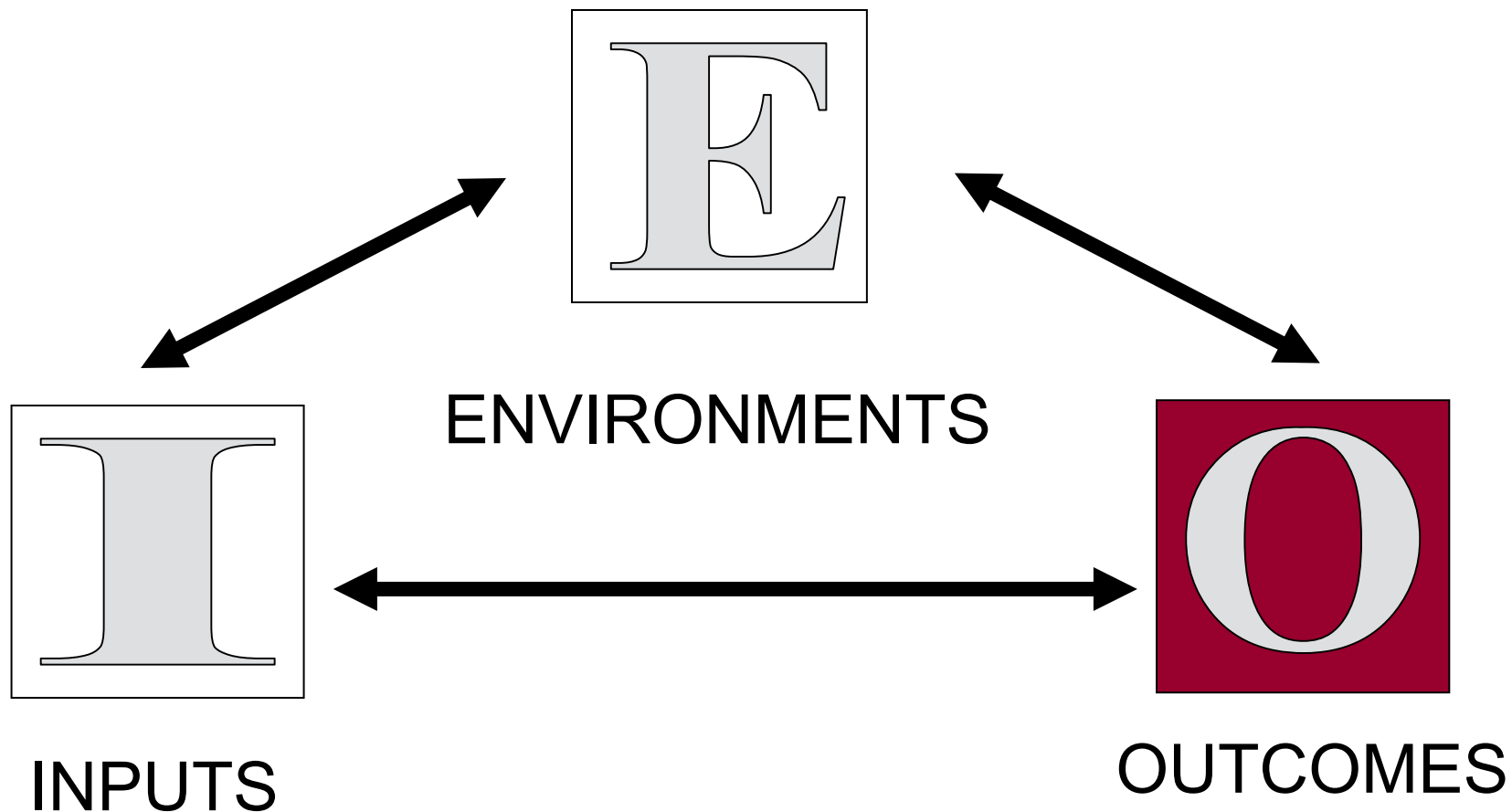


FIRST-YEAR INITIATIVES

FYE Initiative	%
FY academic advising (ADV)	80.4
Early alert systems (EA)	79.0
Pre-term orientation (OR)	75.4
First-year seminars (FYS)	73.5
Placement testing (PT)	65.9
Peer education (PE)	62.3
Student success center (SSC)	55.2
Developmental ed (DEV)	54.5
General education (GE)	54.1
Convocation	52.6
Residential programs (RES)	48.8
Learning communities (LC)	46.7

FYE Initiative	%
First-year gateway courses (GATE)	39.2
Common reading (CR)	38.3
Summer bridge (SB)	36.8
Writing-intensive coursework (WR)	35.4
Leadership programs (LEAD)	35.4
Service learning (SL)	31.8
Mentoring by campus professionals (MT)	31.6
Experiential learning/learning beyond the classroom (EXP)	31.0
Undergraduate research (UGR)	21.1
Study abroad	19.4





TO WHAT END ARE WE EDUCATING?

“Student persistence, or retention...and academic achievement...are common measures [and] are of great importance as metrics for student success [but] **learning outcomes desirable for all college students, such as written and oral communication, information literacy, problem solving, civic engagement, and intercultural and global understanding are also worthy of study.**”
(Kinzie, 2013)







Jennifer R. Keup, Executive Director

THE FUTURE: MEETING NEEDS & SETTING AGENDAS

Meeting Needs, Setting Agendas

- FYE&SIT as a sub-specialty of higher education scholarship and practice
- Increasing emphasis on research & assessment
- Supporting an international FYE&SIT network
- Fostering advocacy & excellence
- Integrating new models of student activism and social justice advocacy
- Identifying and integrating transitions

new



Meeting Needs, Setting Agendas

- Welcoming new voices in the FYE&SIT field:
 - Supporting a wider range of campus partners
 - Including historically underrepresented and “new traditional” students
 - Engaging perspectives from a variety of institutional types
 - Identifying and mentoring the next generation of FYE&SIT leaders and advocates
- Others?



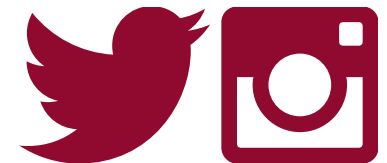


Jennifer R. Keup, Executive Director

MAKING THE MOST OF THE CONFERENCE

Making the Most of the Conference

- Review resources in packets & program
- Attend a variety of session types
- Visit the exhibitors
- Network!!!
- Engage in session and conference evaluation
- Excess handout tables & conference archives
- Attend the closing session



#FYE2020

Stay Involved



Getting Involved with the National Resource Center

Step 1 (all FREE):

- » Join one of the Center's six listservs (www.sc.edu/fye/listservs/index.html) including the First-Year Experience (FYE), the First-Year Assessment (FYA), the Sophomore Year (SOPH), the Transfer Year Experience (TYE), the Senior Year Experience (SYE), and the Graduate Year Experience (GRAD).
- » Join the Center's social media outlets, including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube (@NRCFYESIT).
- » Subscribe to *The ToolBox* and/or *E-Source for College Transitions* newsletters.
- » Submit an article to *E-Source for College Transitions*, a biannual electronic newsletter published by the Center to provide practical strategies for supporting student learning and success (www.sc.edu/fye/publications/submissions.html).
- » Nominate a colleague for a Center-sponsored recognition program (www.sc.edu/fye/awards). These include Outstanding First-Year Student Advocates Campaign (co-sponsored with Cengage Learning), Institutional Excellence for Students in Transition, Paul P. Fidler Research Grant, and Excellence in Teaching First-Year Seminars Award (co-sponsored by McGraw-Hill Higher Education).
- » Bookmark the Center's website for quick access to resources (www.sc.edu/fye/resources).

Step 2:

- » Utilize a National Resource Center publication in your functional area (<https://stylibpub.presswarehouse.com/nrcfye/main.aspx>).
- » Subscribe to the *Journal of The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition*, a semiannual refereed journal sponsored by the Center that disseminates empirical research findings on student transition issues that inform practice in all sectors of postsecondary education (<http://sc.edu/fye/journal/>).
- » Attend an upcoming Center-sponsored institute or conference such as the Institute on Sophomore Student Success (April 13-15, 2018), the Institute on First-Year Student Success in the Community College (June 1-3, 2018), or the 25th National Conference on Students in Transition (October 13-15, 2018).
- » Enroll in one of the Center's online courses such as Maximizing Digital Tool Use in the First-Year Seminar: Helping Students to Become Digital Learners (March 26-April 20, 2018) or Common Readings: Creating Community Beyond the Book (April 30-May 25, 2018) (<http://sc.edu/fye/oc>).

Step 3:

- » Propose/present a session at a Center-sponsored conference.
- » Volunteer to review session proposals for Center-sponsored conferences.
- » Propose/present a preconference workshop.
- » Submit a scholarly article to the *Journal of The First-Year Experience & Students in Transition* (<http://sc.edu/fye/journal/manuscript.html>).
- » Apply for the Editorial Review Board for the *Journal of The First-Year Experience & Students in Transition* (www.sc.edu/fye/journal/editorialreview.html).
- » Submit a proposal for the National Resource Center's Paul P. Fidler Research Grant, which is designed to encourage the development and dissemination of knowledge that has the potential to improve the experiences of college students in transition (www.sc.edu/fye/research/grant/).



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Getting Involved: Step #1

- Join one or more listservs
- Connect with the Center via Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, & YouTube (@NRCFYESIT)
- Subscribe to *The ToolBox* and/or *E-Source for College Transitions* newsletters
- Submit an article to *E-Source*
- Nominate a colleague for a Center-sponsored recognition program
- Bookmark the resources page (www.sc.edu/fye/resources)



Getting Involved: Step #2

- Utilize a Center publication in your functional area
- Subscribe to the *Journal of The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition*
- Attend an upcoming conference or institute
- Enroll in an online course



Institute on Sophomore Student Success »

Join us for the Institute on Sophomore Student Success from April 20 - 22, 2020 in Columbia, SC. Registration closes Thursday, April 9, 2020.



Institute on First-Year Student Success in the Community College »

Join us for the Institute on First-Year Student Success in the Community College from April 20 - 21, 2020 in Columbia, SC. Registration closes Tuesday, April 14, 2020.



Online Course: Supporting Students of Color within Predominately White Institutions »

Join us for the Supporting Students of Color within Predominately White Institutions online course. Registration closes Monday, April 27, 2020.

Getting Involved: Step #3

- Propose/present a session or a preconference workshop at a conference
- Review session proposals for conferences
- Consider volunteering
- Submit a scholarly article to the *Journal*
- Submit a scholarly-practice book proposal
- SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
 - Review Board for the *Journal*
 - Review for the Paul P. Fidler Grant



Welcome!



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