The Georgia State University Early College Program: A Practice in Student Success Relevance

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Early College at Georgia State University

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Outline of Presentation

• Introduction to GSU Early College
• Relevance to Conference Strand
• Evidence of Success
• Guiding Research
• Questions/Comments
Brief Description

• Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Early College High School Initiative:
  – Carver Early College (2005)
  – Washington High School - Early College Program (2009)

• Program objective:
  – to offer first-generation, students of color, and students of low SES backgrounds the opportunity to earn considerable college credit while pursuing their high school diploma

• Practices utilized to promote college readiness and access:
  – Parent orientations/manual/emails
  – College Readiness Course
  – Summer Enrichment
  – Touch-Ins
  – Study sessions
  – Professional Luncheons
  – Supplemental programs
  – Grade reporting
Relevance

- Close the “achievement gap” for those traditionally underperforming populations
- ECHSI philosophy
  - when challenged, underrepresented populations in higher education will rise to the challenge of a rigorous and accelerated high school curriculum while beginning their college tenure in high school.
- ECHSI looks to address the issues of high school dropout, postsecondary readiness, and career readiness
- Georgia State Early College program has worked successfully to
  - reduce the “achievement gap”
  - introduce the option of college
  - introduce successful programs and strategies focused on high school graduation and college and career readiness.
Evidence

- National Data -
  - High School Graduation Rates
    - 78% of Traditional Students
    - 90% of Early College Students
  - Post-Enrollment Rates
    - 68% of Traditional Students Enrolled in Post-secondary Institutions
    - 71% of Early College Students Enrolled in Post-Secondary Institutions
Evidence

• National Data
  – Credits Earned
    • Average 38 college credits earned by Early College students across US
  – Degree attainment post-high school graduation
    • One year: 1% of Traditional students & 21% Early College students
    • Two years: 5% Traditional students & 25% Early College students
Evidence at GSU

• Numbers/accomplishments through programming at GSU
  – 90% Retention Rate at GSU
  – Average of 19.8 Credits earned by Early College students at GSU
  – 100% Accepted into 2- or 4 year colleges/universities
  – 92% of GSU Early College Students Enrolled in Post-Secondary Institutions in 2014
  – 83% of 2009 graduating class still pursuing post-secondary degrees, while 15% have graduated.
Evidence at GSU via Programming

- Program Evaluation Surveys (Please see handout)
  - Summer Enrichment
  - College Readiness
  - Touch-Ins
  - Study Sessions
  - Former Early College students
Guiding Research

Black Empowerment Theory
The process by which persons gain the ability to obtain & utilize resources to achieve individual or collective goals, & to manage emotions, knowledge, skills or material resources in a way that allows for effective performance of social roles. In addition, the ability to navigate ecological barriers.

- Tutor
  - Training
    - Mentorship
- Students
  - Cohorting
Guiding Research

Motivation

- Growth Mindset Theory
  The belief that intelligence can be developed whereby learning is the ultimate goal.

- Goal Setting
  - Academic & career goals
  - Accountability
Guiding Research

• Student Support
  – TRIO Services
  – Student Integration Models
Guiding Research

• Black Segregated School
  – Strong Leadership
  – Caring Teachers
  – Academic Curriculum/Extracurricular Activities
  – Community and Parent involvement
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