

University of Idaho Student Success Conference

Innovation and Impact

Ideas shared during the Reporting Out Session

The University of Idaho's **Student Success Conference: Innovation and Impact** held on May 1, 2018 concluded with each table sharing a diverse array of ideas to enhance student success on campus. Common denominators among the potential solutions were:

- the need to view the university –and its offerings— from the students' vantage point
- the need to organize more events that bring faculty, students, and staff together to discuss the many facets of student success

While we compile the table data from all three sessions, please peruse the following list of suggestions. If you wish to add to these, just drop me a line at brian-CETL@uidaho.edu.

Connecting Students with Resources

- *How many resources are under-, appropriately-, and over utilized? What does this tell us? What can we do?*
- Provide digital passports for student engagement with events and programs on campus
- Make a greater effort to amplify and encourage usage of the resources and services we already have.
- Run awareness-raising campaigns. Build an online searchable database for student services driven by student needs/perspectives
- Develop well-trained, well-prepared peer-to-peer networks for students
- Require a course like "College 101"
- Run a trauma-informed awareness campaign
- Offer a "How to College" course for students to connect them directly to services. Get all colleges to buy-in. Look beyond the freshman year
- Provide more first year student programming (*but don't drop it*)

Clearing the Academic Path

- *How can students successfully navigate higher education?*
- The purpose of a university is to change lives. *How do we reach at risk students so that their lives can be changed?* Identify them early and ongoing (*VandalStar*). Intervene in a unified effort, then follow-up and assess.
- Provide intervention at the departmental level
- Identify and reduce the risks for at risk students
- Evaluate summer school affordability to help students finish in four
- Remove the major designation until the second year
- Student retention challenge – address the low 4-year graduation rate. Conduct exit interviews for students who leave
- Address and reduce high DFW rates



- Provide a half-semester “How to College” course for those who withdraw so they do not lose needed credits and to help them gain skills/connections for a successful college experience
- Collaborate with high schools to enhance the go-on rate
- Grow representation of and support for historically underserved populations (*the 1% stats*)
- Enhance the academic purpose of higher education

Creating a Unified Message to Prioritize Students

- *As a community, are we on the same page?* Embed a holistic vision of student development across campus
- Student success should be student-driven
- Provide more opportunities for faculty and staff “training” to support student success along multiple dimensions
- Talk to students. Provide them a seat at the table. View resources, opportunities, and websites through *their eyes*.
- Increase faculty-staff-student connecting events.
- Foster a growth mindset across campus –make it a thing we are committed to and known for
- Shift culture: close campus for a day, create a faculty-staff-student summit –Vandals Values Summit, do something with what’s learned
- Enhance a sense of community
- Develop and share teaching tips to support student success
- Generate personalized connections

Addressing the Whole Student

- Create concerted retention initiatives focused on the whole student experience –academic *and* nonacademic
- Well-being, belonging, and metacognition
- Provide more experiential learning opportunities
- Focus on parallel tracks: academic and well-being
- Increase community engagement opportunities/visibility

