ABHE Annual Conference 2023

RETENTION STRATEGIES THAT WORK

Dr. Daniel Ruarte / Life Pacific University
Retaining students is just as important as recruiting students. But retaining students is more complex since it is often decentralized and passive.

- Discover how to leverage your role as CAO to centralize retention efforts
- Learn several retention strategies that you can implement on your campus
- Understand how to engage the entire campus in proactively retaining students
ACTIVITY: LEARNING COMMUNITY

- Talk to the person next to you:

- What are some of the most successful retention strategies you are implementing?

- Share out!
1) HOW DO WE LEVERAGE OUR ROLE TO CENTRALIZE RETENTION EFFORTS
Executive Level Representation

• “Where everyone is responsible, no one is responsible” Albert Bandura

• Retention is an area in many private Christian schools that does not have a dedicated VP or Dean. It seems like it is everyone’s job, but then again it is nobody’s job (who is taking responsibility, who is being proactive, strategic and moving this to a priority).

• If the CAO is the conscience of the institution... Academic success (retention) should be at the top of your list in terms of priorities.

• Academics vs everything else (competing priorities for students and for staff and faculty).

• You are strategically positioned to influence other areas in the institution to produce change. (Executive level influence, manager level influence, faculty influence, staff influence.)
2) RETENTION STRATEGIES THAT YOU CAN IMPLEMENT ON YOUR CAMPUS
Currently implemented at LPU

- Academic Probation Courses and Interventions
- Academic Support Center
- Academic Contracts
- Faculty workshops and fall trainings (summer reading)
- Registrar Office involvement in tracking students’ progress in connection with Academics.
- Student Development involvement (First Year Sem + Piloting Success Coaching + Peer mentoring)

Working to implement in coming years

- LIFE Bridge-Intervention strategy for incoming freshmen
- Peer Mentors- Connected to First Year Seminar + Bridge
- Student Success Coaches
- Educational Development Program (Certificate in Student Success) professional development for faculty and staff.
3) HOW TO ENGAGE THE ENTIRE CAMPUS IN PROACTIVELY RETAINING STUDENTS
Currently implemented at LPU

• Enrollment Retention and Student Success (ERSS) Committee
  - Meets every other week
  - Includes representatives from academics, admissions, registrar, student development, athletics, and all VPs.
  - Progress reports, data analysis, matters arising, retention plan and initiatives follow up.

• Retention and Student Success Plan

• Retention initiatives and goals in the University Strategic Plan
ACTIVITY: **LEARNING COMMUNITY**

- Talk to the person next to you:
- Which of the mentioned strategies you think can potentially work at your school?
- **Share out!**
- **Q & A**
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