Part-Way Home Data Partnership: Findings & Recommendations

Institutional Planning, Assessment, and Research

January 26, 2017
Background

• Voluntary data partnership with UNC GA
• IR staff gathered and analyzed common data elements to answer common set of questions
• Will be used by GA
  – To design additional initiatives
  – To better understand student success
  – To inform a large-scale market research effort
Who is a Part-Way Home student?

- For the purposes of this partnership, PWH students were those who
  - Were new first-time or transfer undergraduate students
  - Began in Fall 2008
  - Subsequently left ECU for at least one semester (fall or spring)
  - Had earned 72 or more credit hours
  - Had a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0
Population at ECU

• Fall 2008
  – 4,538 new first-time students
  – 1,667 new transfer students
• 854 met criteria for PWH
• Three groups analyzed
  – All PWH (854)
  – PWH who re-enrolled but did not graduate (95)
  – PWH who re-enrolled and did graduate (240)
Major findings: Financial

- Pell recipients no more likely to be PWH than non-Pell recipients.
- Few had exceeded Pell eligibility or loan amounts;
- Few PWH students have a current account balance; for those who do, the average is less than $700.
- Most common “hold” was for not completing the Financial Aid Exit Interview upon leaving.
Major findings: Race/ethnicity & Gender

• Minority students over-represented in PWH population compared to overall student body.
• Of those who re-enroll, African American and Asian students more likely to graduate than White or Hispanic students.
• Similar proportions of men & women compared to overall student body.
• Among those who re-enroll, women more likely to graduate.
Major findings: *Drop/Stop-out & Re-enrollment*

- Almost half of students eventually re-enrolled.
- Of those who re-enrolled & eventually graduated, ~10% had stopped out more than once.
- About 14% transferred to another school
  - ~80% of these to a school within NC
  - ~50% to a community college
  - Most common: PCC (18), NCSU (9), WTCC (7), UNCW (6), UNCG (5)
Major findings: Majors & Grades

- About 1/3rd of PWH students had not declared a major either at the time of exit or the time of re-entry.
- Most common majors (>5%): Management & Industrial Technology
- Average GPA at initial drop/stop-out=2.73
  - For those who re-enrolled & graduated, average GPA at graduation=3.11
- Majority who re-enroll do graduate.
Major findings: *Time out of school*

- Indications in the data that
  - the longer a student stays out of school, the less likely s/he is to re-enroll; and
  - the longer the time period between stop-out and re-enrollment, the less likely s/he is to graduate.
Recommendations: *Further work*

- Analyze first-time and transfer students separately.
- Investigate overlap between students who leave ECU to attend another school & those who eventually re-enroll at ECU.
- Investigate whether students who did not re-enroll eventually obtained degrees & where.
- Survey successful PWH students to identify effective strategies.
- Survey non-returning PWH students to identify needs.
Recommendations: *Actions*

- Take a team approach with faculty & staff, e.g., include faculty advisors in institutional initiatives to improve degree completion.
- Identify roadblocks to degree completion.
- Investigate alternative degree pathways, esp. online options.
- Review barriers to declaring major in timely fashion & encourage early declaration of major.
- Identify effective interventions to scale up or strengthen (e.g., advising) & identify new interventions.
Part-Way Home Data Partnership: Questions & Discussion

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