CSCU Student Success Center - Background

• The CSCU SSC received a competitive $500,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation to initiate this work. There are seven states nationally that have established centers – Ohio, Michigan, Texas, Arkansas, California, New Jersey, and Connecticut

• In addition to supporting personnel to carry out the mission and goals of the CSCU SSC, the grant supports the convening of statewide faculty and staff meetings, student success summits, and professional mini grants.

• Founded in Fall 2014, the CSCU SSC aims to foster a collaborative process in which faculty, staff, students, and administration work together to develop a culture of academic and personal success for community college students across the state of Connecticut.

• Consistent with the mission of our colleges, we aim to promote communities in which students are encouraged to succeed and excel as they work towards achieving their goals of degree and certificate completion.
CSCU SSC Goals

1. Enhance existing and establish new student success knowledge communities through the regular exchange of information at system professional development activities and meetings.

2. Promote innovation and continuous improvement through the collection and dissemination of data and performance metrics.

3. Develop a sustained student-success plan based on the needs of Connecticut community colleges and research and analysis of nationally recognized high impact practices and initiatives.

4. Assist in the identification of areas where BOR policy and/or state statute should be developed or amended to enhance student learning outcomes and pathways to completion.
Our Approach

CONVENE learning opportunities for administrators and faculty to support innovation

Identify and pursue system and state POLICY changes that support large-scale institutional change

Map and align initiatives to create COHERENCE

Student Success Centers organize a state’s community colleges around common action to accelerate their efforts to improve persistence and completion

Develop an agenda for RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT to support reform

Strengthen state DATA capacity to support innovation and improve performance
Board of Regents Goals

• **A Successful First Year**
  Increase the number of students who successfully complete a first year of college.

• **Student Success**
  Graduate more students with the knowledge and skills to achieve their life and career goal.

• **Affordability and Sustainability**
  Maximize access to higher education by making attendance affordable and our institutions financially sustainable.

• **Innovation and Economic Growth**
  Create educational environments that cultivate innovation and prepare students for successful careers in a fast changing world.

• **Equity**
  Eliminate achievement disparities among different ethnic/racial, economic, and gender groups.
CT Student Success Center “Assets”

- CT is a relatively small state
- Fall 2014 - 55,153 students in the system (31,886 FTE)
- We have one instance of Banner
- Our 12 colleges are organized into a system with BOR governance and support
- Transform 2020 - Student Success Cornerstone
- Stakeholder Groups/Councils
- Existing Student Success System Initiatives
  - Transfer and Articulation Program (TAP)
  - PA 12-40
  - CT HLS Grant
  - Go Back to Get Ahead
  - Manufacturing TAAC Grant
  - Early College Initiatives – CT ECHO (P-Tech)
  - P20 Win
  - Complete College America
  - Achieving the Dream
To, Through, and From...

- How students transition from high school, or another status (work place, home, etc.) TO our institutions.
- How students progress in their selected degree and certificate programs, and move THROUGH our institutions.
- How students that complete degree and certificate programs transition FROM our institutions to successful careers or to enrollment in a baccalaureate degree.
Completion Counts Initiative

The system is launching a student retention and success campaign “Completion Counts” designed to support colleges in their efforts to increase student retention and completion. Demographic trends nationally suggest that community colleges must further develop effective programing, marketing and communication strategies that result in increases in retention and completion rates, a shift from an emphasis on finding “new students” each fall. Success in this endeavor is a key strategy to maintain enrollment levels that support balanced institutional budgets in this era of declining traditional age new student enrollment.
Completion Initiative Focal Areas

1. Guided Pathways

2. Social Media and Student Communications
   • Facebook, twitter, smartphone applications

3. Retention software systems, practices, & programs
   • Student Retention and Advising Systems (i.e. Degreeworks, Simplicity, EAB, & Starfish)
   • Enrollment practices and policies
   • Entry and first year programs

4. Augmentation of student financial and holistic support
   • Financial aid high impact practices
   • Third party partnerships (non-profit, state agencies, etc.)

5. Performance metrics (dashboard technology) and student analytics/modeling.