Cost effective practices that promote student success

Jane Wellman
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Elements of the presentation

- Trends in financing, and what they suggest about future financing strategies
- What the research says about the relation between spending and student success
- The “ISS” (Investment in Student Success) pilot project to model ways to measure cost-return
Highlights from trends research

• Costs are not increasing as fast as prices – and costs are declining in many institutions
  • In small privates, competition for students and growing use of tuition discounts means net tuition revenues per student may be going down – despite rising sticker prices
  • In many public institutions, tuitions are increasing to replace lost state funding

• Stratification of wealth – with the majority of students going to students with the least to invest in their success – versus rising costs and spending in institutions that serve relatively few students
NATIONAL: WHERE THE MONEY GOES, WHERE THE STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED: E&R SPENDING PER FTE STUDENT/ENROLLMENTS

Enrollment vs. spending, 2008

Spending increases/declines

• Spending is increasing fastest in administration, academic support, sponsored research and auxiliary enterprises

• Spending for instruction is declining slightly in all types of institutions – even the wealthiest

• Spending for student services has increased among private institutions, has been largely stagnant in public institutions
Research review...for evidence about

- Spending and student retention, degree attainment, R&D funding
- Use of full-time/part-time faculty
- Spending on student services
- Student financial aid
- Costs of degree production
Tentative conclusions

- Intentionality matters as much or more than money alone
- Spending on instruction and student services pays off in learning, retention and graduation
- Student aid programs are generally not designed with the goal of student learning or degree attainment
- Excess units cost institutions money, cost students in time and money, and do not get students to the finish line
Investment in Student Success: Pilot Program

Report “Calculating Cost-Return For Investments in Student Success”
Published December 2009
By Jobs for the Future and the Delta Cost Project

Primary findings…

- Assessments do not include cost information
- Program costs per student varied widely (from $59 to $1,601 per student) – all a fraction of the average costs per student (from $6,802 to $19,108 per student for these institutions.
- Seven of the thirteen programs showed an increase in retention that could be associated with participation in the student success programs.
The cost-return calculator

- Templates for recording student evaluation information
- Templates for recording unit cost information
- Places to include institutional cost data