



# Student Retention and Faculty Involvement

Presentation to Faculty Department Heads

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Presented by the Retention Committee:

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# Role of the Faculty

- ◆ Any attempt to increase retention must be a cooperative effort across the university community (Dennis, 1998).
- ◆ A significant component of retention management program's success depends upon faculty advising; it is essential to involve faculty in the retention planning process (Dennis, 1998).



# Role of the Faculty

- ◆ Retention management is not about lowering standards and keeping students in school at any cost.
- ◆ Faculty and advisors have a great deal of influence on a student's decision to stay in school or withdraw.



# Role of the Faculty

- ◆ Faculty members can assist with retention efforts related to various populations of students including:

Academically talented students

High risk students

Residential students

Off campus students

Transfer students

Multicultural students

International students



# Role of the Faculty

Student populations (continued):

Athletes

Adult learners

Undeclared majors

Graduate students

Distance education students

(Dennis, 1998)



# Role of the Faculty

- ◆ We all need to have access to publications, printouts, and web information available to all faculty members.
- ◆ We need to have a feedback mechanism for faculty comments about retention, and to answer faculty questions.
- ◆ We need to look at retention information at the department level; i.e. attrition rates; return rates.



# K-State's Retention Strategies

- ◆ K-State's retention strategies consist of several programs designed to enhance student retention.

Early warning program

Attendance warning program

Pilots program

Developing Scholars program

Healthy Decisions program

“Ask Willie” program

Academic recovery program



# K-State's Retention Strategies

- ◆ K-State's retention strategies (continued)

Student Organizations

Contacts with students on warming

Tracking programs

Contacts with students not enrolled for the next semester

Financial assistance

First Year Experience Program

MapQuest



# K-State's Retention Strategies

## ◆ Continued

University experience

Honors programs

GPS Mentors

K-State Proud Awards

Orientation and Wildcat Warm up

Residence Hall Programs

University Café

# Retention Data

- ◆ Dr. Michael Lynch





# How Departments Can Help:

- ◆ Students involved in research
- ◆ Students involved in departmental activities – searches, clubs, ambassadors
- ◆ Students involved in teaching, i.e. undergraduate teaching assistants
- ◆ Students tutoring other students
- ◆ Send information out to your students; create a list serve or facebook page for the students in your department



# How Departments Can Help: Continued

- ◆ Faculty engaged with students
- ◆ Look at courses with high rates of D's and F's and withdrawals.
- ◆ Encourage students to see their advisors at least once a semester.
- ◆ Reward advising
- ◆ Reward retention successes
- ◆ Offer tutoring to majors



# How Departments Can Help: Continued

- ◆ Support student travel.
- ◆ Provide students with travel funds
- ◆ Utilize the college's diversity point person
- ◆ Referrals to academic and/or student services programs.
- ◆ Reporting first year students' grades

Questions?





# Resources

- ◆ Dennis, M. (1998). A practical guide to enrollment and retention management in higher education. Westport, CN: Bergin and Garvey.
- ◆ Tinto, V. (1993). Leaving college: rethinking the causes and cures of student attrition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.