



COST EFFECTIVE STUDENT SUPPORT STUDY

PURPOSE

The Research and Planning (RP) Group of California has received a grant from the Kresge Foundation to articulate how student support, both inside and outside the classroom, can be delivered in a cost-effective manner so that community colleges can narrow the achievement gap for Latino and African-American students and enable more students to achieve transfer, a degree and/or certificate.

INSTITUTION SELECTION PROCESS

Fifteen (15) colleges have been selected that have high proportions of African American and/or Latino students.

METHOD

The RP Group will gather student perspectives from all of the participating institutions on the aspects of support that they received that were most instrumental to their success, as well as practitioner insights regarding ways to deliver those types of support in a sustainable manner. By bringing forward on-the-ground knowledge of students, faculty, student services professionals and administrators, we will develop a series of strategies that can be implemented within constrained budget times and work collaboratively with practitioners and students to determine how best to implement these approaches. The RP Group has contracted with the Social Science Research Center at California State University, Fullerton to conduct an online survey and telephone interviews designed to gather information about students' experience at the college they attended.

INSTITUTION'S PARTICIPATION

Responsibilities:

- (1) Provide the RP Group with data on your students that would allow us to contact them to participate in an online or telephone survey. Your institution would identify three cohorts of students: successful students, leavers and current students¹. For these students, your institution will provide demographic, contact and award information. We estimate it will take each college no more than ten (10) hours to produce these data. Once these data have been extracted, your institution will send these to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), where additional information (e.g., student progress data) will be added.
- (2) Provide us with access to faculty, staff and administrators at your college to participate in a convening with practitioners from other colleges participating in the study to discuss the results from the student survey and provide their feedback on student support that works. A follow-up survey will also be conducted.
- (3) Some districts may be asked to host a convening at your institution to bring faculty, staff and administrators together from the colleges participating in the study to discuss the results from the student survey and provide their feedback on student support that works.
- (4) Provide us with access to faculty, staff and administrators at your college to participate in a focus group to discuss the results from the student survey and provide their feedback on student support that works

¹ A successful student is a student who has earned an AA/AS/Certificate or transferred to a four-year institution between Fall 2010 and Summer 2011. A leaver is a student who was enrolled in Spring 2011, but not enrolled in Fall 2011 and did not transfer or graduate (AA/AS/Certificate). A current student is a student who is enrolled in Fall 2011.

Benefits:

- (1) Your institution will receive a stipend of \$1,000 to help cover expenses related to providing the requested data.
- (2) Your institution will receive an individualized report that describes how your students responded ,as well as a report that reflects student responses from all participating colleges.

RP GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) Provide through the California Community College Chancellor's Office a secure protocol through which districts will transfer their student data.
- (2) Provide technical assistance to districts that need support in providing their student data.
- (3) Contract with CSU Fullerton to administer the online and telephone surveys.
- (4) Produce summary reports that provide a comprehensive analysis of all the data gathered through the student survey.
- (5) Provide college-specific reports that describe how students responded and a comparison with the full group of participating colleges.
- (6) Organize the convenings and cover related expenses (i.e., meals).

TIMELINE

This study will span the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 academic years and will conclude on August 31, 2013.

- By September 30, 2011: Institution submits the Memorandum of Understanding to the RP Group
- By October 31, 2011: Institution submits student data to the CCCCCO
- By November 30, 2011: CCCCCO adds additional information to the student data
- January-February 2012: Student survey is administered electronically and via phone
- March-May 2012: RP Group analyzes data
- By August 31, 2012: RP Group disseminates briefs of student responses to participating institutions
- September 2012: RP Group conducts first round of regional convenings with practitioners and students from colleges participating in the study
- September-October 2012: RP Group conducts practitioner focus groups
- October-December 2012: RP Group analyzes data
- February-March 2013: RP Group administers follow-up surveys with attendees from the first round of convenings
- By August 31, 2013: RP Group disseminates briefs of practitioner responses to participating institutions

CONFIDENTIALITY

All data identifying individual students will be secured through the use of secured data transfer protocols to ensure confidentiality.

ABOUT THE RP GROUP

The RP Group is a non-partisan nonprofit organization that seeks to build a California community college culture that views planning, evidence-based decision making and institutional effectiveness as key strategies for student success. To this end, the RP Group works to strengthen the abilities of California community colleges to gather, analyze and act on information in order to strengthen student success. Grounded in our roots as a professional association for researchers and planners, the RP Group provides research, evaluation, professional development and technical assistance services that support evidence-based decision-making and inquiry.

CONTACT

Dr. Darla Cooper, Program Director, at dcooper@rpgroup.org or 805.351.5974
Priyadarshini Chaplot, Program Manager, at pchaplot@rpgroup.org or 213.447.7463
Dr. Robert Johnstone, Principal Investigator, at johnstoner@smccd.edu or 650.738.4454