



Traditional College Retention Strategies & New Initiatives

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District of Columbia College Access Program

<http://www.dccap.org>



About DC-CAP

The DC College Access Program (DC-CAP)

DC-CAP is a private, non-profit organization that encourages and enables DC public high school students to enter and graduate from college.

Program Components include:

HS Programming/CIRCs

Alpha Leadership Project

Last Dollar Award

College Retention Programming

Students are eligible for services for five years beyond high school graduation. We have served or serve the following high schools:



About DC-CAP

Who We Serve(d)

DC Public Schools

Anacostia
Ballou / Ballou STAY
Banneker
Bell (CHEC)
Cardozo
Coolidge
Duke Ellington
Dunbar
Eastern
Luke C Moore
McKinley
MM Washington
Phelps ACE
Roosevelt / Roosevelt STAY
School Without Walls
Spingarn / Spingarn STAY
Washington Metropolitan
Wilson
Woodson

DC Public Charter Schools

Booker T Washington
Capital City
Cesar Chavez (Capitol Hill & Parkside
Campuses)
E L Haynes
Friendship Collegiate
Hospitality
IDEA
Ideal Academy
KAMIT
KIPP DC
Maya Angelou (Evans & Shaw
Campuses)
MEI Futures
National Collegiate
Next Step
Options
Perry Street Prep (Hyde)

DC Public Charter Schools (continued)

Richard Wright
SEED
Thurgood Marshall
Washington Latin
Washington Math, Science, &
Technology
William E Doar
Young American Works
YouthBuild



The Basics

Persistence vs Retention

Persistence rates measure the overall student body. Retention rates may only measure students who progress or enroll a subsequent year and do not reflect transfer students.

Know the Population

When reading reports or statistical data, ensure that you know how the data is collected (ie, institutional, local, national, aggregate, self-reported, or sample populations).

Who Counts

Often, retention and graduation rates are calculated by only counting first-time students who are enrolled full-time during the first-year of study. Typically, part-time and transfer students are not counted when calculating retention or graduation rates.

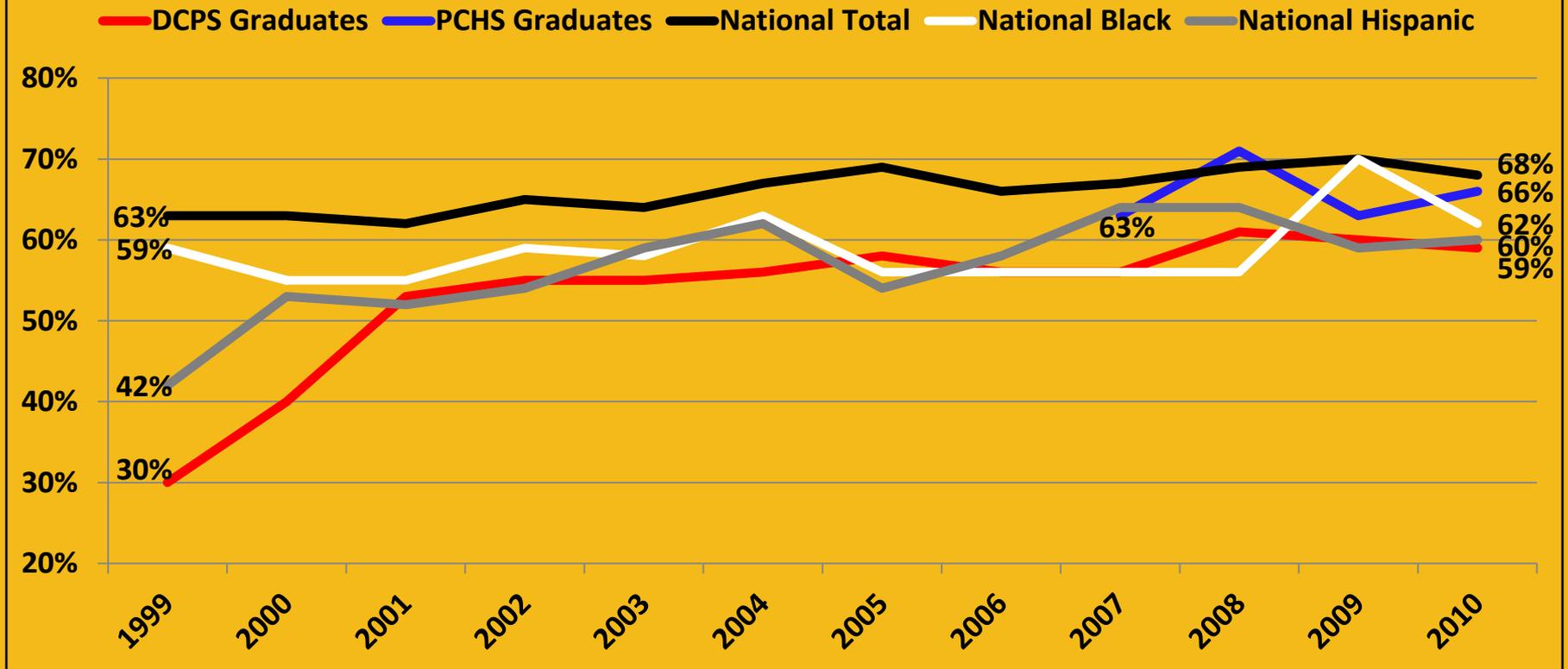
Normal Time

Recently, graduation rates have been reported (actual and estimated) based on 150% of “normal time.” This is 6 years for four-year institutions and 3 years for two-year institutions.



The Need for Effective Retention Efforts

DC-CAP and National College Enrollment Rates



Sources: DC-CAP database and the National Center for Education Statistics

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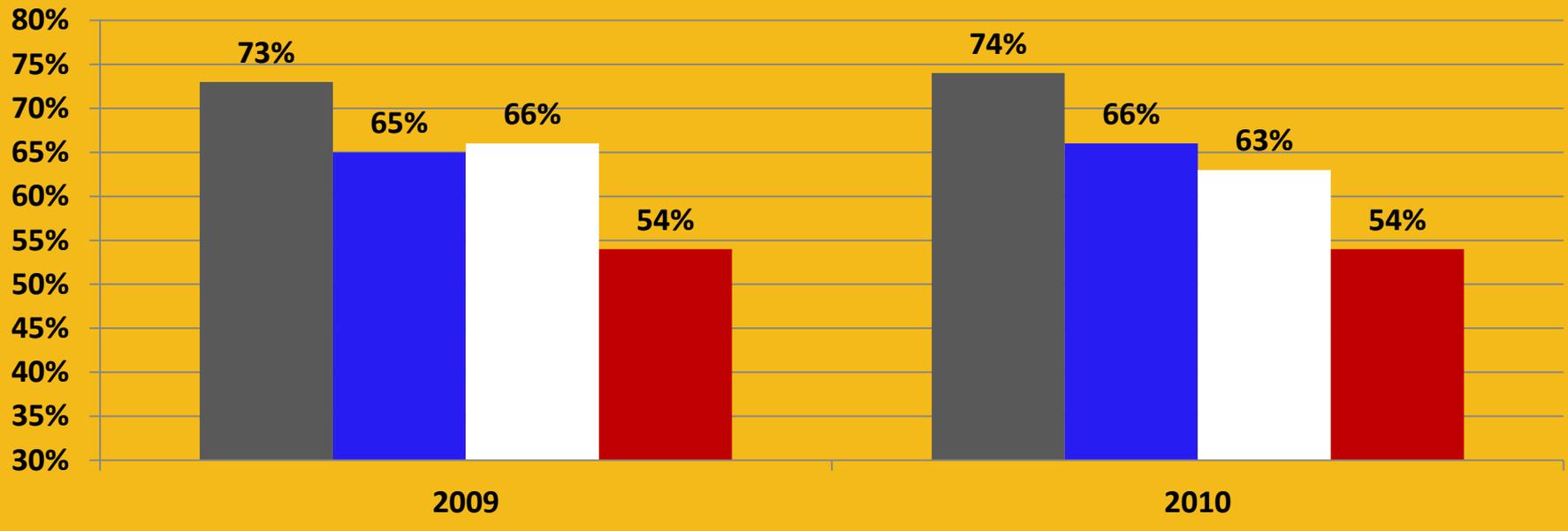
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The Need for Effective Retention Efforts

National College Enrollment Rates (by Gender)

■ Female Students Nationally ■ DC-CAP Female Students ■ Male Students Nationally ■ DC-CAP Male Students



Sources: DC-CAP database and Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY

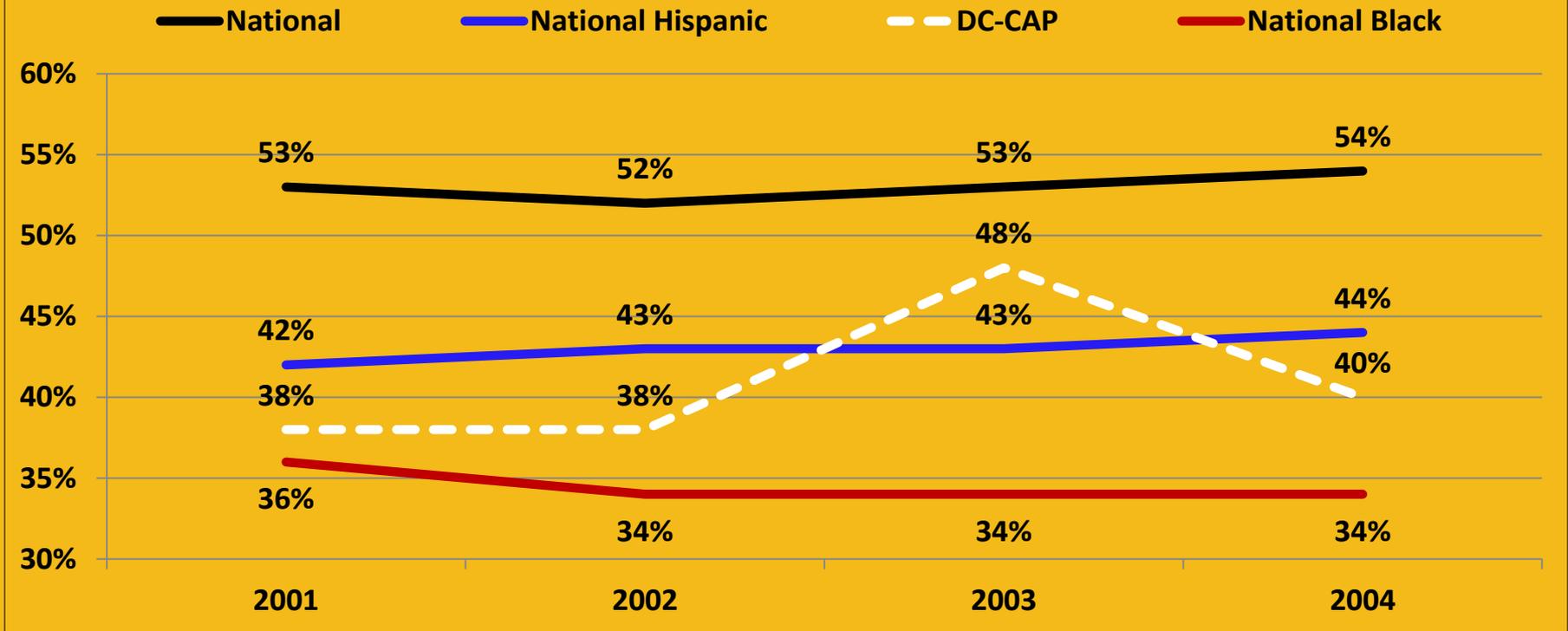
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The Need for Effective Retention Efforts

National 5-Year Graduation Rates (by Race)



Sources: DC-CAP database and the National Center for Education Statistics

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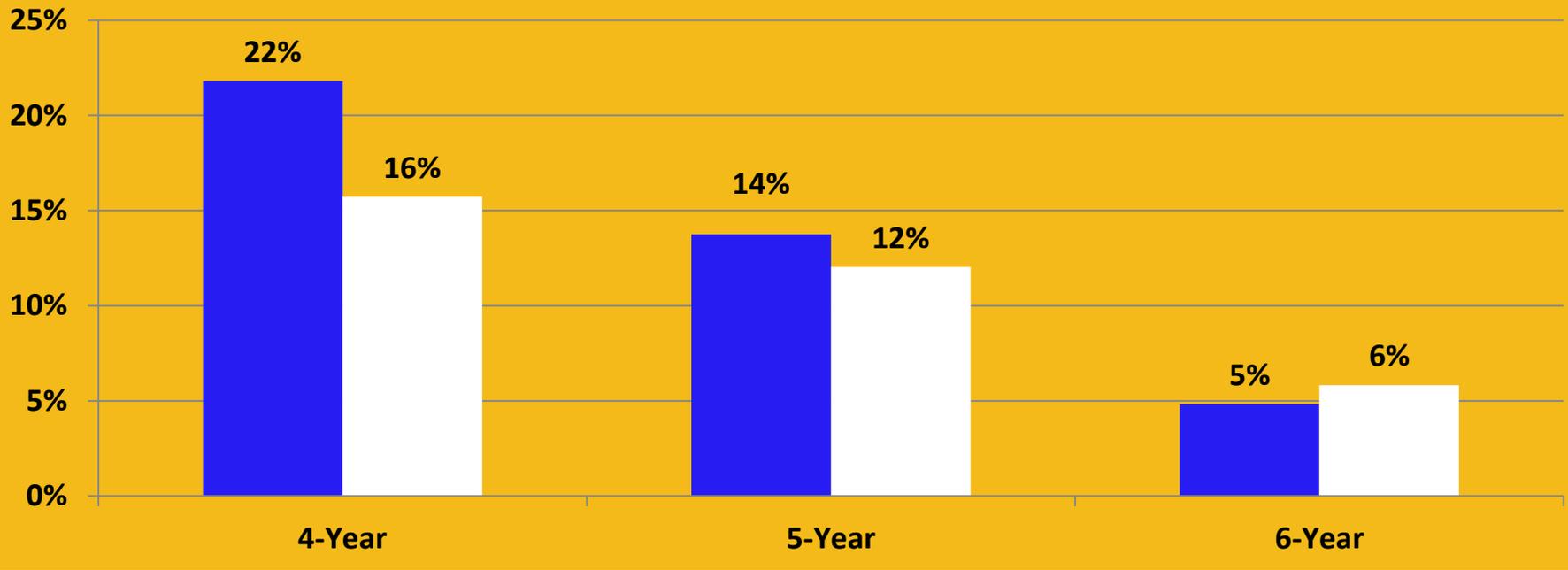
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The Need for Effective Retention Efforts

**DC-CAP College Graduation Rates by Gender
(HS Class of 2006)**

■ Female ■ Male



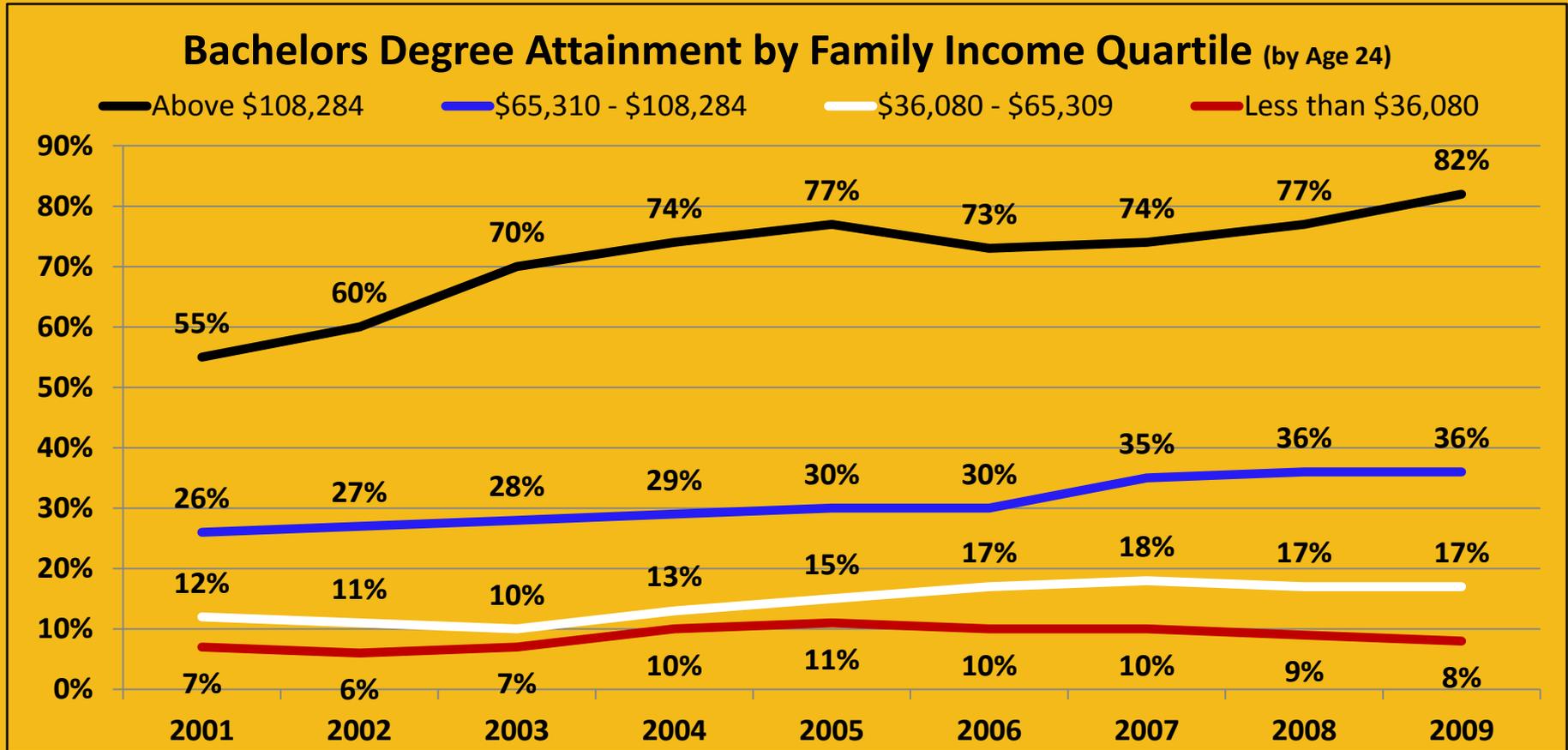
Sources: DC-CAP database

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The Need for Effective Retention Efforts



Source: Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY

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Traditional College Retention Strategies

Learning Communities -- a deliberate restructure of the curriculum to connect students to faculty to foster greater intellectual connections or a group of students who take a common set of courses together or share a common experience around their academics. Participants in a LC develop a deeper understanding of the courses' subject matter while they build relationships and learn together outside of the classroom.

Linked Courses or Cohorts -- two common courses, one of which is typically content based, (i.e. math or science), and the other is an application course (i.e. speech and writing) for a group of students.

Freshman Year Experience Programs -- deliberate attempts to create rites of passage for incoming students, in which they are supported, welcomed, celebrated, and ultimately assimilated in to the campus environment. FYE programs can encompass orientation to the campus, living and learning communities, freshman seminars, career exploration, student-peer or faculty mentoring, academic advising and counseling, academic-skills training, among others.



Traditional College Retention Strategies

Orientation and Summer Bridge Programs -- helps students make a successful transition from high school to college, academic integration, and personal/social integration. Allow high-risk, low income and academically ill-prepared students, the opportunity to get a “head-start” on building academic skills, especially in English and Math. It also gives students the ability to become acquainted with the campus and develop relationships with the faculty and peers.

Developmental Education Programs -- comprehensive processes that focus on the intellectual, social, and emotional growth and development of students. These programs commonly address academic preparedness, diagnostic assessment and placement, development of general and discipline-specific learning strategies, and affective barriers to learning.

Mentoring Programs -- a relationship between an experienced and a less experienced person, in which the mentor provides guidance, encouragement, advice, support, and feedback to the protégé.



New Retention Initiatives

Community College to Four-Year Institution Bridge Programs -- beyond the standard articulation agreement between community college and 4-year institutions, intensive programs may feature one-on-one advising, access to events and organizations at the 4-year institution, individualized transition program for admissions and class registration into the 4-year institution, and financial incentives.

Male Engagement Programs -- males are provided a community to be supported by peers and mentors and are encouraged to take advantage of the academic and social opportunities within the environment.

Early Intervention IT Systems -- use data to identify students at risk of failing and provide them with concrete steps toward academic improvement. Early intervention systems give instructors an automated way for instructors to reach out to students in need of help early in the semester.



New Retention Initiatives

Returning Learner Programs -- designed to recruit, retain, and graduate returning students. Programs can include incentives and services to recruit and retain students, advisers and advocates who provide one on one support and assist with creating a specific action plan.

Career Planning Programs -- help students identify career goals and determine the necessary steps to attain the proper preparation. Research has shown that students with more job-related goals were more likely to persist than students with unknown goals.



Local and National Programming

Community College to Four-Year Institution Bridge Programs

NOVA Pathway to the Baccalaureate Program

- www.nvcc.edu/academics/pathway/

Bridge to Clemson University

- www.clemson.edu/admissions/bridge/index.html

Male Engagement Programs

University System of Georgia African-American Male Initiative

- http://www.usg.edu/aami/AAMI_Brochure_2011.pdf

The Ohio State University Black Male Initiative

- <http://odi.osu.edu/current-students/bell-national-resource-center/>

Early Intervention IT Systems

Purdue University

- <http://www.itap.purdue.edu/studio/signals/>

University of Missouri System

- <http://studentsuccess.umsl.edu/Faculty/academicalert-faculty.html>
- http://academicalert.mst.edu/media/administrative/academicalert/documents/Fall2009-Academic_Alert_flyer.pdf



Local and National Programming

Returning Learner Programs

Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education Adult Learner Initiative

- http://cpe.ky.gov/policies/academicinit/adult_learner.htm

University of Toledo College of Adult and Lifelong Learning

- <http://www.utoledo.edu/call/>

Career Planning Programs

INROADS' College Links and Internship Program

- <http://inroads.org/>

STEM Initiatives for Minority Students

The City College of New York Program for the Retention of Engineering Students

- <http://www1.ccny.cuny.edu/prospective/gsoe/>

Chicago State University Academic Enrichment Studies Program

- <http://www.csu.edu/AcademicSupport/>



Questions & Answers

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