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Welcome to Today's
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Webinar





International Students 2012: Transition, Integration & Retention

February 16, 2012 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

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Panelist

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Panelist

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Overview

- U.S. colleges and universities best ***support*** and ***serve*** international students when we approach advising and programming ***collaboratively***.
- An effective ***holistic*** approach to the student, and our roles in their success, focuses on student ***transition, integration, and retention***.

Nationally, 25% of first-year students do not return to their initial institution ¹

- After our campuses attract and recruit international students, how can international educators be most effective in promoting students' success from pre-arrival through graduation?

1. Mathews, B. (2009). Retention Matters. Retrieved April 16, 2010, from <http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2009/11/02/matthews>

Transition

Given that a successful *transition* to the complex U.S. undergraduate experience is key to international student success, what can our institutions do effectively to support students?

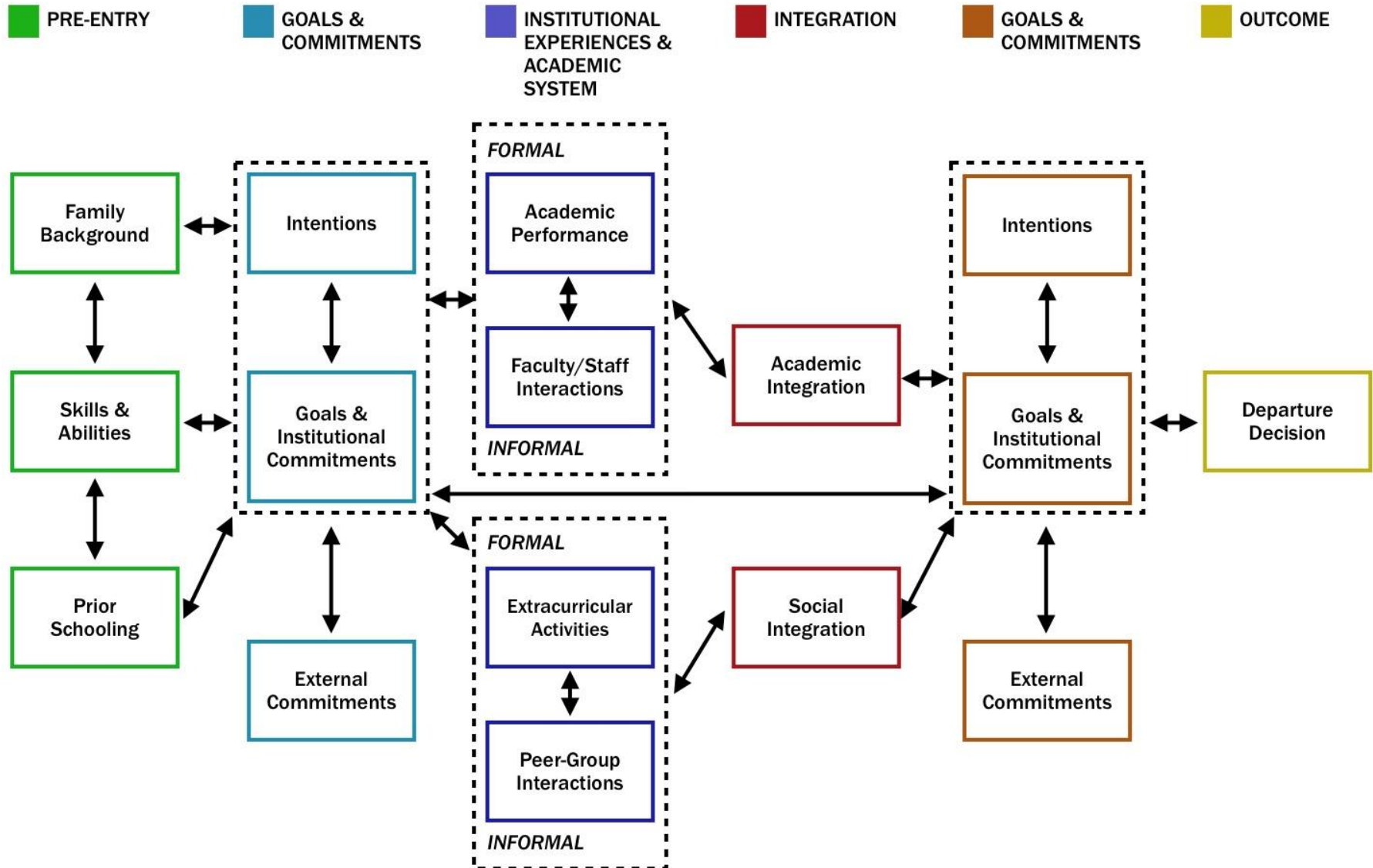
Polling Question

- How is the international student retention rate reported at your institution?
 - The international student retention rate is not separated out from the overall retention rate.
 - The international student retention rate is reported separately from the overall retention rate, with international retention goals tied to domestic retention goals.
 - The international student retention rate is reported separately from the overall retention rate, with international retention goals unrelated to domestic retention goals.
 - An international student retention rate is not reported at my institution.

Retention vs. Withdrawal

- How can the efforts of international educators affect the likelihood of an international student staying at and graduating from an institution?
- What is our contribution to our institution's ***retention*** and internationalization goals?

TINTO'S (1993) THEORETICAL MODEL OF COLLEGE WITHDRAWAL



What role, predictive modeling?

Consider institutional predictive model's applicability to international students and modify appropriately.

Anticipated major

Date of application

Time between application to admittance

Deposit date

Estimated family contribution

Ethnicity

How student found out about college

Fall or spring start date

Living on campus or commuter

Alumni connections

Scholarship level

Race

Religion

Unmet need

GPA

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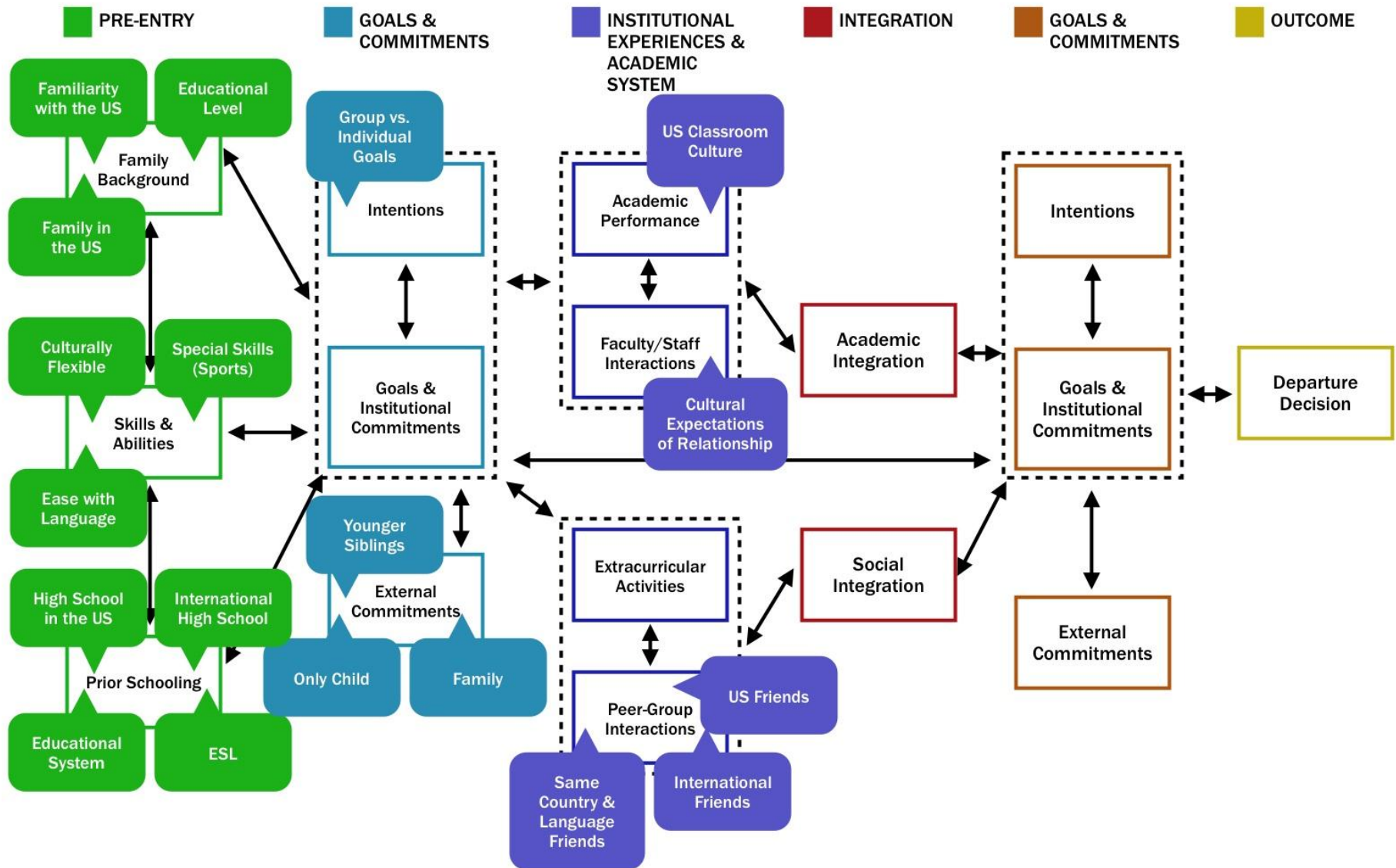
Country of origin

English language learner

TOFEL score

Attended SNC ESL

Modifications to TINTO'S (1993) THEORETICAL MODEL OF COLLEGE WITHDRAWAL



Academic Advisement of International Students

Requires internal collaboration

Considers needs of “whole” student

Marries student expectations and realities

Is especially critical during transitions

Polling Question

- Who is responsible for academic advisement of international students at your institution?
 - International office staff
 - A faculty member assigned to the student
 - Other

Academic Advisement - Pre-arrival

- Begins during recruitment/admission
- “Hand-off” from Office of Admission to for immigration AND academic transition
- For graduating ESL students, preparatory workshops and pre-advising

Academic Advisement - Transition

- International staff academic advisor for new international students for first year; allows for HOLISTIC advising
- Pre-arrival, email/Skype advisement; in-person when possible
- Students registered and receive class schedules prior to semester

Academic Advisement - Group

- Group advisement during International Student Orientation includes culturally sensitive presentations by Academic Support Services
 - Academic Honor Code
 - U.S. classroom culture
- International staff facilitates academic support group for international students on probation

Academic Advisement - Individual

- Individual advisement sessions during orientation and “add/drop” period
- Close monitoring during early part of semester
- Advisor is liaison with faculty members, Registrar, Retention Committee
- Strengths-based advising approach; empower, and celebrate successes
- Midterm progress assessment/intervention

Academic Advisement - Individual

- Continue to address socio-cultural, personal, other non-academic issues
- Encourage exploration of academic major and career development
- Assist with change to permanent academic advisor in student's major; international staff continues as secondary advisor

Integration

- How can we facilitate international students' meaningful ***integration*** into our college community both academically and socially ?
- What role can programming play in integration?

What is integration and why does it matter?

- **Astin's Theory of Involvement** is that students learn more the more they are involved in both the academic and social aspects of the collegiate experience. An involved student is one who devotes considerable energy to academics, spends much time on campus, participates actively in student organizations and activities, and interacts often with faculty.

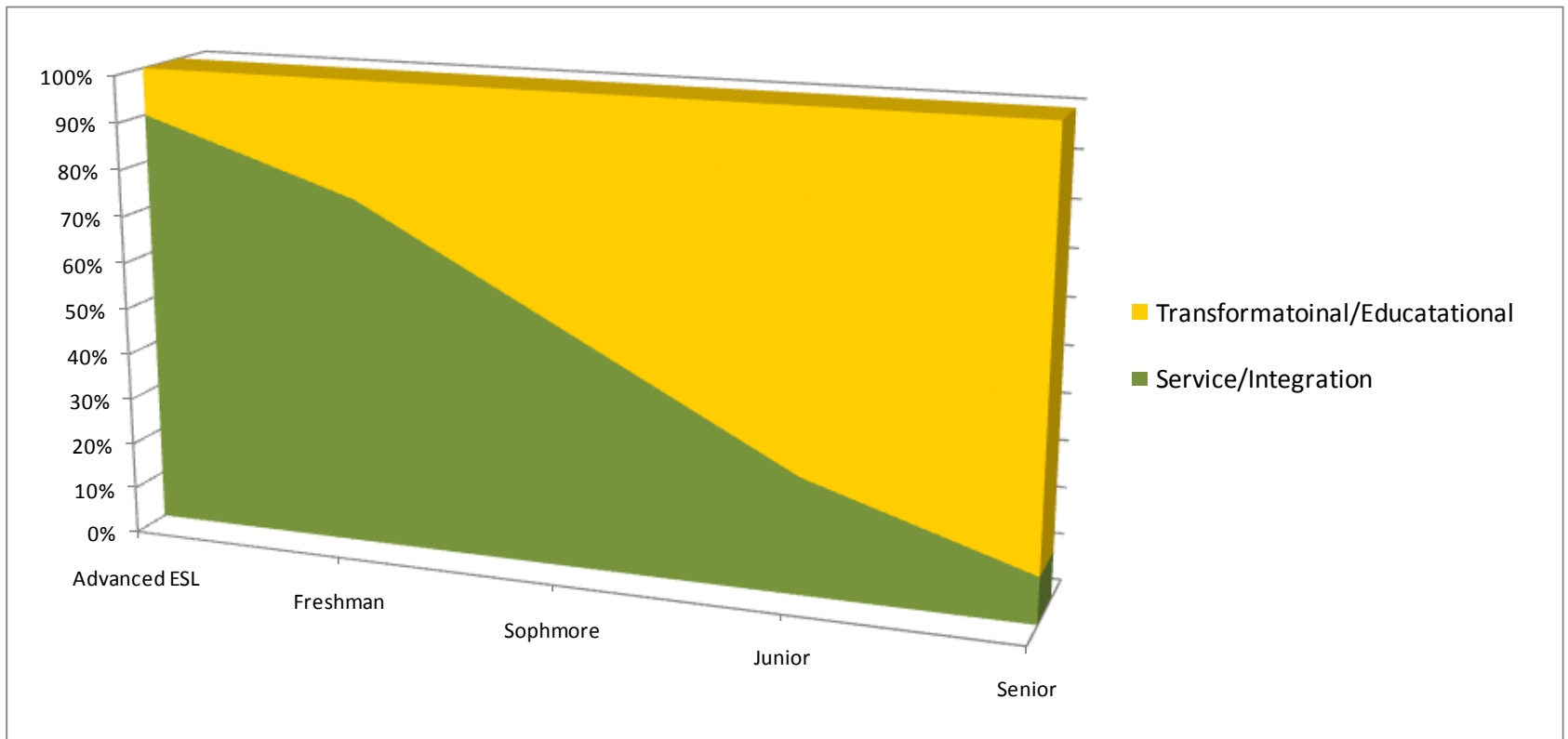
(Astin, 1984, p.292)

Polling Question

- At your institution, who is responsible for programming specifically for international students?
 - International office solely
 - International office in collaboration with other offices
 - Other offices solely (e.g., Student Affairs)
 - Institution does not offer programming specifically for international students.

- **Service/Integration** activities are those that focus on the student's quality of life at the college, providing social and cultural support.
 - Organized entertainment
 - Ethnic celebrations
 - Visa/immigration issues
 - Welcome activities
- **Transformative/Educational** activities are grounded in educational theory to assist students in personal growth, intercultural sensitivity, and life-long learning.
 - Cross -cultural programming
 - Intentional learning communities
 - Peer mentoring
 - Bridging classes

Types of activities as tied to student advancement



Goals:

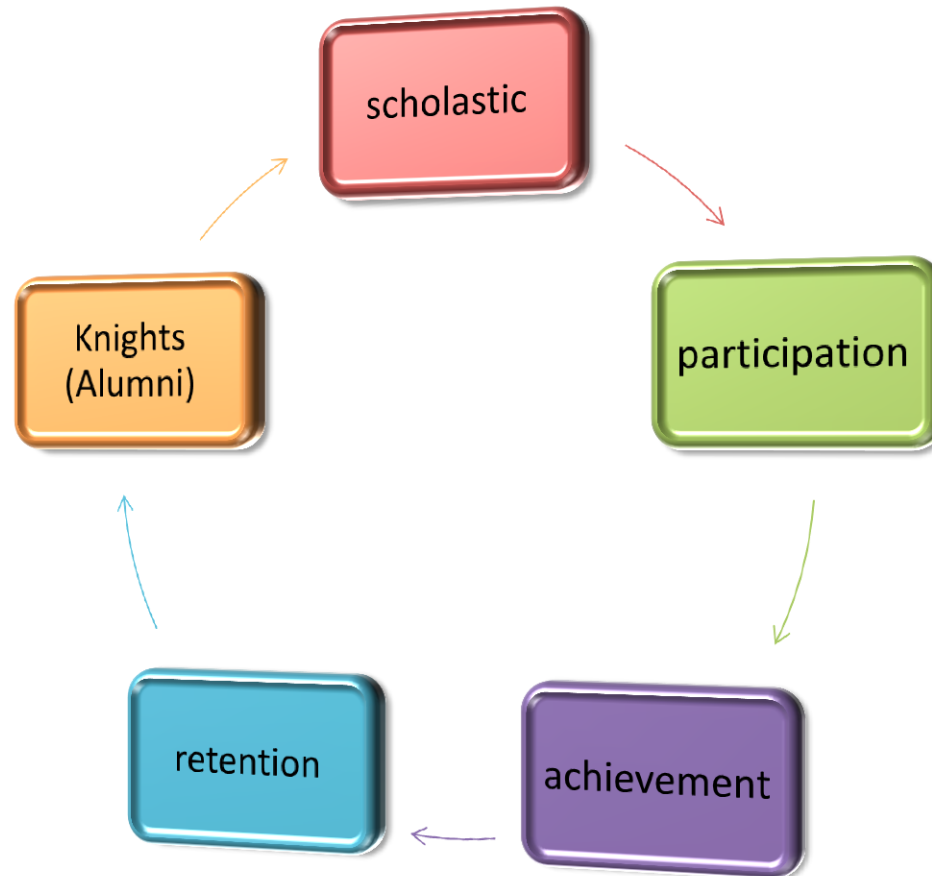
International students become fully engaged in all living and learning opportunities

Internationalizing the entire institution for all students

Objectives:

- ❖ Recruit students who are academically and emotionally prepared to pursue academic excellence.
- ❖ Identify and address opportunities and threats to international students' academic and non-academic success, adjustment and well being.
- ❖ Engage international students and US students in integration activities.
- ❖ Assist international students in the transition to alumni status.

Holistic integration model



Case in point: Holistic approach to Saudi student success



Case in point: Holistic approach to Chinese student success



Reflection

- What does a ***collaborative*** and ***holistic*** approach to international student support look like at your institution? What are your effective strategies?
- What opportunities and barriers exist at your institution for approaching international student transition, integration, and retention holistically?
- What changes could be made within your institution and/or office toward greater synergy in meeting the needs of international students?

The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change. --Carl Rogers

Thank you! We're looking forward to your questions and insights.

Q/A

How Do I Call-in with a Question?

If you would like to ask a question of our panelist(s) please press *1 and you will be put in a call queue until it is your turn to ask your question.

OR

You can write in a question or comment anytime during the event by clicking on the “**Chat**” **Bubble** in the left hand corner of your screen.

For Questions that Arise After the Conference

If you have a question that you were unable to ask of our presenter(s), please feel free to email us at:

Info@paper-clip.com

...and we will be happy to forward it to our panelists!

Feedback

We want your feedback on today's event!

If you would like to provide suggestions for improvement and/or ideas for future event topics, please email Tamie Klumpyan at:

tamie@paper-clip.com

and she will send you the link to our brief online survey.

Thank you for your participation,
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