Educational Session

2839 - Creating Greater College Access and a Four-Year Experience Through Community College Partnerships
Partnerships and Collaboration, Transition Programs and Supports

Through the advent of a national collaborative, a private university and a community college are creating greater opportunities for first-generation college students to attend and benefit from a high-quality, private university education. Participants will learn how creating a public-private transfer program can assist in easing the transition for transfer students. In particular, we will highlight features like holistic, built-in support across all 4-years, and student feedback and success.

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University of Dayton
Creating Greater College Access and a Four-Year Experience Through Community College Partnerships
Presenters

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Session Agenda

● Introduction and history of the UD-Sinclair Academy (UDSA), including its position as an institutional imperative/commitment.

● Enrollment information, including student demographics, of the UDSA, along with program elements.

● Introduction of the Kessler Scholars Collaborative and their approach to student success.

● Discussion of the Kessler Scholars Program for the UDSA, including elements of the program.

● Question and answer session
  ○ Brainstorming ways that similar models/elements could be implemented on other campuses.
  ○ Discussing ways to elevate student voices and collect feedback in transfer programs.
University of Dayton

- Founded in 1850, the University of Dayton (UD) is a top-tier Catholic, Marianist research university with academic offerings from the undergraduate to the doctoral levels.
  - Diverse community committed to educating the whole person and linking learning and scholarship with leadership and service.
  - New University leadership in 2016 afforded new opportunities to fulfill our mission.
  - Developed a strategic plan to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion which includes a detailed plan to become an anti-racist university and a commitment to pursue inclusive excellence.
University of Dayton: Commitment to Community and Access

- UD is an anchor institution deeply engaged in the city of Dayton through investments that benefit the entire community and enrich the educational experience.
  - Belief that education can transform society if people work together in community.
  - At “The Hub”, students, faculty and staff work alongside local entrepreneurs in the recently renovated historic downtown Arcade.
  - Greater West Dayton Incubator offers microlending, training and education, networking opportunities and consulting services to Black entrepreneurs in a historically underserved section of the city.
  - Fitz Center for Leadership in Community serves as a connecting point and campus-wide partner for community partnerships, leadership, community-engaged learning and scholarship, and innovative solution-based strategies to civic needs through an asset based approach.

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
University of Dayton: Commitment to Community and Access

- As a Catholic, Marianist university dedicated to community and the common good, advancing access, affordability, diversity, equity, inclusion and student success are core to UD’s vision, mission and identity.
  - UD has championed:
    - Transparent net-tuition model,
    - Enhanced outreach to recruit talented students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds,
    - Created new programs and pathways, and implemented practices to ensure student success.
Pause and Consider

- How does your institutional mission align with opportunities to create more experiences for transfer students and community engagement?
- Are there local or regional institutions that could be potential partners to serve more students?
UD-Sinclair Academy (UDSA)

● UD-Sinclair Academy is UD’s unique version of the community college transfer model as a four-year experience.
  ○ Public-private partnership.
  ○ Over 100 articulated four-year degree pathways.
  ○ Transparent four-year net-tuition plan with no hidden fees.
  ○ Academic and student support services at both institutions.
  ○ Dual enrollment and access to both campus facilities, fostering a sense of belonging on each campus.
UD-Sinclair Academy

• Academy benefits and features:
  ○ Articulated academic pathways to ensure little to no loss of credits once students transition from Sinclair to UD.
  ○ Access to UD academic advisors while at Sinclair.
  ○ Dedicated student success staff for holistic support and advising.
  ○ Online platform that allows for program engagement and vehicle for student feedback.
UDSA Success and Outcomes

- Primary driver of enrolling over 1,200 new transfer students since 2016, the majority coming from low and moderate income families.
  - 110% increase over this five-year period, with signs of additional growth in the future.
  - Since 2016, 20% of UDSA students have identified as first-generation, and 30% have been Pell-eligible.
  - 96% success rate for UDSA graduates.
Leveraging Even Greater Opportunities to Enhance Community and Access

- While many public universities have developed community-college transfer programs with the support of available public funding, higher performing private universities have not kept pace, and, in fact, have seen significant declines.
  - According to IPEDs, higher performing private universities have experienced a 55% decline in transfer students since 2016.
  - UD is one of only three private universities with enrollment of over 7,000 undergraduates that has shown material growth of transfer students over this same time period.
Kessler Scholars Collaborative

- Introduction of the USDA Kessler Scholars Program for fall 2023 provides even greater access to four-year degrees.
- Kessler Scholars Collaborative
  - Provides first-generation college students with transformative support across their undergraduate experience.
  - Supported by the American Talent Initiative with funding support from the Judy and Fred Wilpon Family Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies.
Kessler Scholars: Comprehensive Support

- Kessler Scholars Collaborative:
  - Employs evidence-based best practices for student success.
  - Kessler Scholar Programs featured at 16 partner campuses nationwide.
  - Comprehensive, cohort-based program design with critical support to foster students’ academic, personal, and professional development and to help assure their success in college and beyond.
  - Asset-based model that recognizes the importance of the student voice in program design.
  - Campus-based programs employ skilled professional staff who connect students with important resources and support their exploration of high-leverage opportunities.
Kessler Scholars Program for the UD-Sinclair Academy

- The Kessler Scholars Program for the UD-Sinclair Academy will support first-generation college students' success.
  - Starting in fall 2023, the program will welcome 20 first-year students each year and will support a four-year cohort of 80 students.
  - To be eligible, students must identify as first-generation college students, meet family income requirements, qualify for the federal Pell Grant, and participate in an interview process.
Kessler Scholars Program for the UD-Sinclair Academy

- Students in the Kessler Scholars Program for UDSA will engage in:
  - Shared learning experiences, including a summer bridge program and regularly scheduled workshops,
  - Regular one-on-one guidance from dedicated professional staff,
  - Peer-mentoring opportunities,
  - Community service events,
  - Shaping programming through a student leadership board.
- Kessler Scholars receive significant financial support from UD and benefit from federal financial aid while at Sinclair.
- Program modeled after other Kessler Scholars programs, as well as the UD Flyer Promise Scholars program, which supports underserved students’ success and boasts a 92% four-year graduation rate.
Further Promotion of College Access and Success

- We view the UDSA Kessler Scholars Program as a way to demonstrate the scalability of a transfer academy model that institutions nationwide can replicate.
  - Opportunities for discussion:
    - Is this model replicable? Are there barriers that could prevent partnerships like the UD-Sinclair Academy?
    - In what ways could similar models/elements be implemented on your campuses?
    - How could you offer multiple approaches or pathways to serve a greater number of students?
    - How are student voices elevated in transfer programs? How do you collect and apply student feedback?
    - Other questions?
Thank you!

- For more information:
  - UD-Sinclair Academy:
    - udayton.edu/academy
  - Kessler Scholars Collaborative
    - kesslerscholars.org
  - Kessler Scholars Program for the UD-Sinclair Academy:
    - go.udayton.edu/kessler