SHAKE THE TREE!

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Dean of Student Services

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Coordinator of Student Services

Bergen Community College  
NJ-NY ACRAO Conference Fall 2014
CURRENT CRITICAL ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- National
- State
- Local
BCC PROFILE

- Largest Community College in NJ
- Enrollment 17,000+
- 2nd Largest College in the State
- 3 Community Colleges within 10 miles
- 15 NJ Universities/Colleges within 30 miles
- 2011 Graduation Rate 14%
- Ranked 13 out of 19
TIME TO SHAKE THE TREE!

August 2013 Team Assembled
4 BRANCH APPROACH

Graduation Promotion
Persistence & Progress Initiatives
Systems & Process Improvement
Data Diving & Manual Auditing
COCONUT COLLECTION

Extracted
Records

Graduated

Categorized

Applied
Interventions

Analyzed

Yellow arrow indicates the flow direction.
Fall 2010 to Spring 2014

Earned a GPA of 2.0 or higher

Completed 60+ College Credits

Did not graduate

TOTAL: 1779 RECORDS
1. Candidates
2. Curriculum Complete
3. Potential graduates
4. Miscellaneous
Candidates

- Enrolled in final semester
- *CONTROL GROUP*

**ACTION**

- Extracted from the list
- Used as a control group
- Put through the traditional process

**TOTAL: 398**
Curriculum Complete

- no longer enrolled
- eligible to graduate

ACTION

Congratulated and Graduated!

TOTAL: 235
Potential Graduates

- needing intervention for program completion
- no longer enrolled at BCC

ACTION
Worked with Students & Academic Deans

TOTAL: 80
Miscellaneous

- Further sifting & sorting needed
- 1066 Records analyzed

ACTION - Extracted

- Missing too many requirements
- Holds
- Student returned
- Duplicates

TOTAL Remaining Records 321

- 190 missing 1 course
- 89 missing 2 courses
- 42 missing 3 courses
Summary of Student Categories

- Candidates (398)
- Program Complete (235)
- Simple Interventions (80)
- Missing 1-3 Courses (321)
REMEMBER THE CONTROL GROUP?

- Graduating: 213
- Never Applied: 185
NUMBERS VS. RATES

The Good News
Graduation Numbers

The Not So Good News
Graduation Rates
Top 3 Courses Missing

- MATH ALL LEVELS: 41%
- ALL OTHER COURSES: 34%
- HUM: 13%
- NAT SCI: 12%

Top 3 Courses Missing
155 AS.PS.GEN. Students
### Analyzed

155 AS.PS.GEN Students

**Curriculum Change Totals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Only Major Chosen</th>
<th>11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2(^{nd}) Major</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3(^{rd}) Major</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4(^{th}) Major</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Missing 1-3 Courses

Academic Standing Data

Dean’s List  35
Honors       12
4.0 GPA      5
The Results Are In ....!
National Student Clearing House Results

- 68% Did NOT Transfer
- 26% Transferred & Earned Bachelor's Degree
- 6% Transferred
LESSONS LEARNED

- Eligible students left without degrees conferred
- More students left missing 1-3 courses
- Students transferred before completing degrees
- Missed intervention opportunities
- No strategic student outreach
LESSONS LEARNED cont.

- Data revealed problem pattern areas
- Manually driven & archaic processes
- Lack of routine student record maintenance
- Alert & tracking systems not in operation
- Not optimizing technology
SOLUTIONS SO FAR ...

✓ Eliminated paper applications
✓ Eliminated student initiated process
✓ Created internal automation calendars
✓ In-house diploma printing
SOLUTIONS SO FAR … cont.

✓ Developed interactive communication systems

✓ Continuous advertising via redesigned webpages & campus displays

✓ Routine “Shaking of the Tree!”
NEXT STEPS

- New sub-committee
- Tracking and alert systems to improve satisfactory academic progress
- Reverse transfer
- Re-recruitment of lost students
- Ongoing collaboration & data sharing with academic areas
- Cycle of continuous assessment & improvement
IN THE NEWS

"Bergen Graduates Its Largest Class Ever"

"...2,862 graduates in Bergen Community College’s Class of 2014, the school’s 45th and largest ever.

Bergen Record cover story May 2014

Tune in to PBS-WNET for an appearance by BCC President on “One-on-One” with Steve Adubato”. During the segment she will discuss “Project Graduation”.
QUESTIONS?

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