

## Reimagining the First Year

What? – three year project organized by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and sponsored by USA Funds and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, bringing 44 campuses together to share ideas, develop policies and practices, and learn from mistakes to improve the first year. Campuses submitted applications and were selected in a competitive process. All the IU regionals are in RFY.

Why? - first year is where universities have the greatest retention issues; many schools that focus on the transitional issues of first year students are finding success at retention and student success. The emphasis will be on implementation. As George Mehaffy, president of AASCU noted, “We don’t have a knowledge problem; we have an implementation problem.” We have piles of research on best practices but we struggle to implement them in an integrated whole.

How? - initial national meeting of all campus teams held in Austin in early February. Each campus had to bring four people with the EVC as the team leader. This is a three year effort entailing the creation of a campus wide Task Force that will focus on implementation of known best practices so that we can assess whether they are having an impact on student success. Each campus will need to determine what its priority is for student success. We will need to determine some metrics for gauging that success as well as benchmarks along the way. As one of the 44 selected campuses for RFY, we are in an honored position of spearheading the creation of a collective knowledge base about what matters most to all 420 AASCU institutions- how to ensure student success.

The three year effort needs to identify at least one priority for each of the following four areas:

Institutional intentionality - fostering a campus wide focus on the first year and changing practices and policies to reflect best practices in promoting student success;

Faculty/Staff – fostering an understanding of the important roles that faculty and staff play in promoting the conditions for student success and providing the professional development and tools to enable faculty and staff to take on these roles;

Students - fostering an understanding of the support structures needed to enable students to succeed in their first year;

Curriculum - Identifying a set of first year courses and/or curricular structures that would be amenable to course redesign so as to promote greater student success.

### **Next steps:**

Watch for a call to participation on this project. Everyone who is committed to helping our students succeed from the moment they are admitted to IU South Bend can have something to contribute to this effort.

More information on the RFY national project can be found at:

<http://www.aascu.org/RFY/>



# Reimagining the First Year

IUSB Faculty Senate Meeting 2/26/2016

# What is Reimagining the First Year?



- A project coordinated by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities
- Three year project (2016-2018) to increase first year retention rates
- Funded by USA Funds and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- 44 participating institutions (competitively selected)
- Crowdsourcing for shared knowledge

# Important Messages



- Focus on Implementation
  - “We don’t have a knowledge problem; we have an implementation problem”
- Embrace the idea of “Standard Care”
  - Persistent achievement gap puts our most vulnerable students at risk
  - This is an ethical issue
- Reimagining the First Year is just a start
  - To reimagine the first year is to reimagine the future of higher education

# To Learn More...

- Read George Mahaffey's Opening Speech at the AASCU 2016 Winter Meeting:
  - <http://www.aascu.org/RFY/MehaffySpeech/>
- Or visit the AASCU Reimagining the First Year website:
  - <http://www.aascu.org/RFY/>



# AASCU Meeting Report



- Jann Joseph, Linda Chen, Kathleen Sullivan, and Kyoko Takanashi attended the AASCU conference in early February 2016
- We need to implement strategies for improving the first year on our campus in four “buckets”
  - Institutional Intentionality
  - Faculty and Staff
  - Students
  - Curriculum

# What We Learned



- Promise of Growth Mindset
  - Plenary on Growth Mindset research in behavioral psychology provided a great place to start
  - Learn about Growth Mindset [here](#) (Link to You Tube)
  - We are looking to invite the speaker to IUSB
- Build on existing initiatives
  - We have a lot of ongoing initiatives like U100 and FYS
  - There are probably more initiatives throughout IUSB
- Crowdsourc input from campus
  - We are smarter together than we are individually

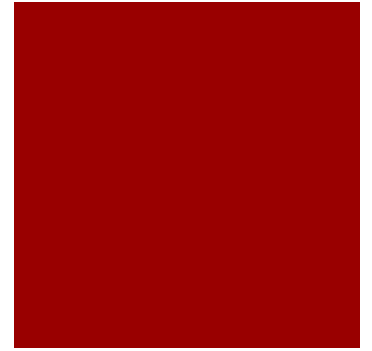
# What's Next?

- We will convene an RFY Team on campus
- The RFY Team will develop a plan of action
- Expect to hear from us in various ways:
  - To contribute your leadership
  - To contribute your academic knowledge
  - To contribute your institutional knowledge
  - To respond to surveys and other input mechanisms
  - To attend forums and workshops
  - Etc.





# Questions? Concerns? Ideas?



- Feel free to talk to current team members
  - Jann Joseph, EVCAA
  - Linda Chen, Dean of Undergraduate
  - Kathleen Sullivan, U100 Director
  - Kyoko Takanashi, Faculty