



Appreciating Student Diversity

November 7, 2014

LOOK AT OUR STUDENTS THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS - WHO ARE THEY?
HOW CAN WE BETTER EMBRACE AND SUPPORT THEIR DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES.

CONVERSATION ACTIVITIES:

- ✧ Who are our students and what does our 6-year graduation rate tell us about how our diverse student populations are faring when compared to our national average?
- ✧ What does this data mean and what opportunities does the data give us in our roles in supporting diverse populations?
- ✧ What barriers are in place currently that hinder the opportunities to serve our diverse populations of students?

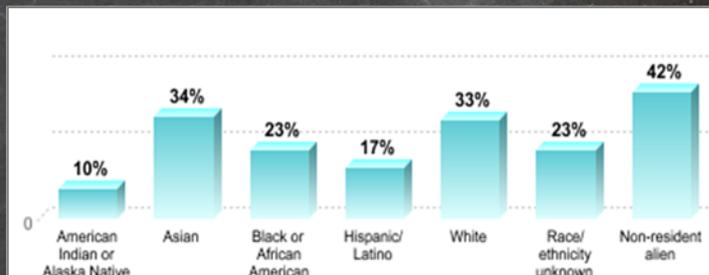
Specific data points were presented to illuminate some "gaps" in student success and offer a multi-year viewpoint which revealed some dramatic differences over time.

UAA 6-YEAR 1 YEAR RETENTION RATES BY ETHNICITY:

First-time, full-time students that enrolled at 4-year degree-granting institutions in 2011, about 79 percent returned the following fall (in 2012). At public 4-year institutions, the retention rate was 79 percent, with a range of 61 percent at the least selective institutions (those with open admissions) LIKE UAA to 95 percent at the most selective institutions (those where less than 25 percent of students are accepted). *Source: National Center for Educational Statistics*

UAA 6-YEAR GRADUATION RATE BY ETHNICITY:

Percentage of Full-time, First-time students who began their studies in fall 2007 and received a degree or award within 150% of "normal time" to completion for their program. The national average is 59% of all full-time, first time students who enroll and finish within a 6-year timeframe. For colleges with an open admissions policy (Like UAA), the 6-year Graduation rate was 33%. *Source: National Center for Educational Statistics*



KEY INSIGHTS:

- ✧ DIVERSITY IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS
- ✧ Keeping a student's perspective: understanding what our students live through and what challenges/empowers them
- ✧ Exposure can change perceptions... Powerful!
- ✧ Recognize value of education starts at home, involves parents, siblings, young, old, employers, everyone
- ✧ Say no to barriers ... Break down silos and support one another & their efforts
- ✧ Clear career pathways through degree to show value of degree-community, Career Services Center, and Colleges
- ✧ As an open enrollment institution, offer greater preparatory support for prep classes, greater financial aid opportunities for prep classes, etc.
- ✧ Increase programs and strengthen programs in the high school... the high school graduations rates reflect the college

POSSIBILITIES FOR CO-CREATION:

- ✧ Involve families in the process and hear their stories
- ✧ Every student could have a faculty, staff or peer mentor connection when they start UAA (leverage Mapworks and technology)
- ✧ Staff Development; Diversity in Alaska context; staff should attend more student diversity events
- ✧ Rethink how we define success and who is responsible for retaining and graduating students
- ✧ Mandatory financial aid counseling for first time, degree-seekers by entry (financial literacy and payment planning)
- ✧ Improve outreach to community/schools to improve students' preparedness and preparation for success
- ✧ New admissions standards and meaningful pathways for entry
- ✧ Leverage grant opportunities