University of Evansville Student Retention

April 17, 2009

Dr. Tom Bear, Vice President for Enrollment Services

- Private, liberal arts and sciences based university
- Total full-time enrollment is 2,600 students
- Average class size is 18 students
- Student to faculty ratio is 13:1
- Offers more than 80 different areas of study
- Selective admissions
 - 25th -75th SAT Percentile is 1010-1260

- Three colleges and one school:
 - College of Arts and Sciences
 - College of Education and Health Sciences
 - College of Engineering and Computer Science
 - Schroeder Family School of Business Administration
- 60 percent of graduates studied abroad at Harlaxton College and other places around the world

- 93 percent of full-time students receive financial aid and scholarships
- Average package of more than \$19,000 per year
- 25 percent of students are Pell eligible
- 10 percent are Twenty-first Century Scholars

What we know...

University of Evansville Retention Statistics

Freshman Cohort Years	Retention Rate	Six-year Graduation Rate
Fall 1998 to Fall 1999	79.7%	60%
Fall 1999 to Fall 2000	82.2%	60%
Fall 2000 to Fall 2001	79.1%	58%
Fall 2001 to Fall 2002	76.5%	62%
Fall 2002 to Fall 2003	77.9%	62%
Fall 2003 to Fall 2004	79.5%	
Fall 2004 to Fall 2005	80.8%	
Fall 2005 to Fall 2006	78.2%	
Fall 2006 to Fall 2007	83.5%	
Fall 2007 to Fall 2008	80.5%	

Retention Profiling

- One-year Retention Rates by:
 - Academic Quintiles
 - Financial Deciles
 - In-State and Out-of-State
 - Academic Programs and College

For example:

Out-of-State

Lowest Economic Decile

Lowest Academic Quintile

Arts & Sciences Major



55 percent retention rate

Qualitative Research Study

- Academic challenge was number one reason for student attrition
- Concern over loss of academic scholarship facilitated decision to leave

Supported by Spring 2008 and 2009 studies on UE's At-Risk Students

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) 2008

Level of Academic Challenge	UE
Freshmen	56.6
Senior	58.3
Active and Collaborative Learning	
Freshmen	42.2
Senior	51.3
Student-Faculty Interaction	
Freshmen	33.8
Senior	49.6
Enriching Educational Experiences	
Freshmen	32.2
Senior	56.9
Supportive Campus Environment	
Freshmen	64.0
Senior	64.2

What we do...

Freshman Edge Program

- 11-day summer program for incoming freshman participants
 - Take "The American Corporation"
 - Learn time management, study skills, and volunteer opportunities
 - Complete team and confidence building exercises
 - Build friendships
 - 94 percent retention rates



Twenty-first Century Scholar Mentors

- 10-15 mentors
- Each mentor is specifically trained
- Mentors meet weekly with mentees
- Group activities are scheduled on a regular basis
- Tutoring and supplemental instruction are offered
- Mentors report weekly on activities



Major Discovery

- 10 percent of freshmen have not declared a major
- Over half of freshmen change or add a major
- Students complete a structured "step-by-step" process to select a major
- Selected faculty serve as advisors for undeclared students
- Journeys in Discovery one-credit hour course
- A Major Affair

Amazing Ace Challenge

- Co-sponsored with Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education
- For all floors in each residence hall
- 3-tiered program so students get to know themselves, their campus, and their community
- Final aspect of program is self-reflection
- "Do What You Are"
- Career services staff located in residence halls



Student Success Team Membership

- Nine members (Academic Advising, Academic Affairs, Student Counseling, Financial Aid, Student Engagement, Student Diversity Initiatives, Athletics, Enrollment Services, and Residence Life)
- Members were appointed by their respective vice presidents and are highly interactive with students

Student Success Team Responsibilities

- Oversee Fall Freshman Call Campaign
- Oversee Spring "At-Risk" Call Campaign
- Monitor Electronic Alert System

Fall Freshman Call Campaign

Staff and faculty volunteer callers:

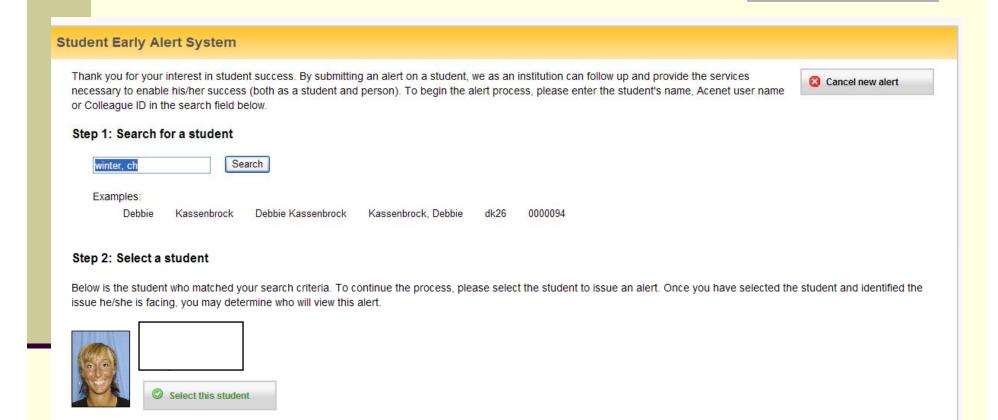
- Go through training
- Are linked to appropriate freshmen
- Approached freshmen in relationship to quintiles
- Received additional information on freshmen (Twenty-first Century Scholars, athletes, housing, etc.)
- Asked questions related to Academic Integration, Social Integration, In-coming Expectations and Experience at UE
- Were trained on MAP-Works (red alerts in low quintiles were approached first)
- Were trained on the Electronic Alert System

Spring "At-Risk" Call Campaign

Staff and faculty volunteer callers:

- Reached out to students with cumulative grade point averages below 2.0
- Attempted to identify reasons why students were in academic risk
 - Not prepared for academic challenge was most often heard
- Attempted to determine students' response to lack of preparedness
 - "I need help seeking and engaging help"
 - "I need help but not effectively seeking or engaging help"
 - "I need help can't do it just dropping out"

- Allows faculty and staff to issue an alert or monitor previously-issued alerts
- Interactive tool
- Identifies students who are having academic or personal difficulty
- Initiates a process meant to provide assistance to enable success



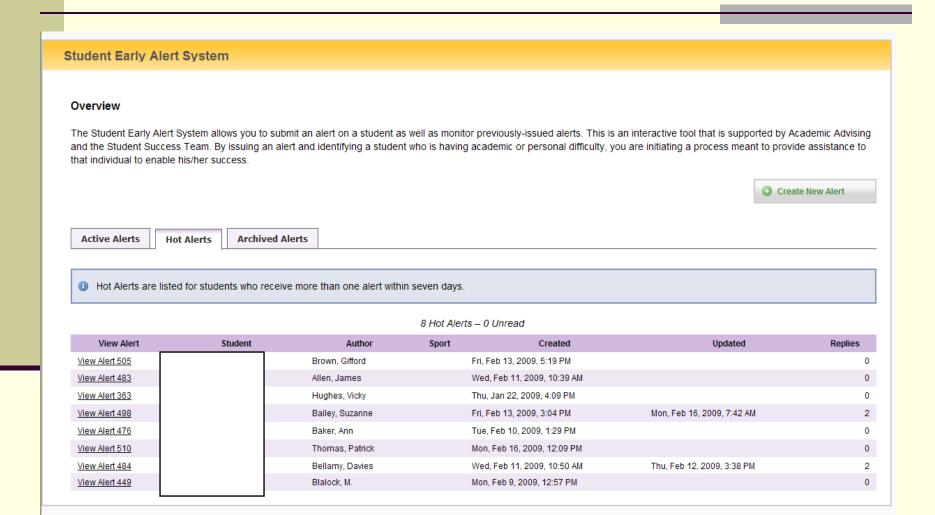
Concerns may be related to:

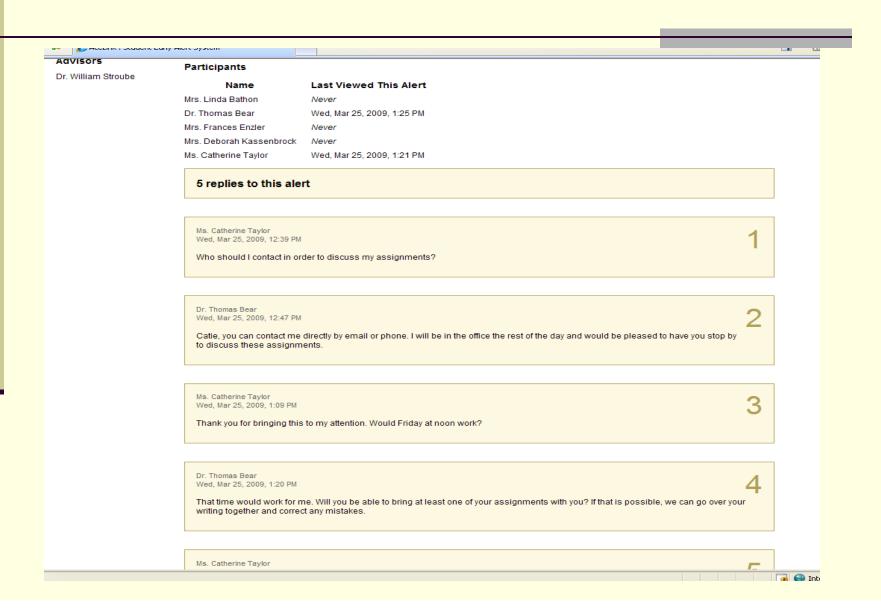
- Academics
- Employment
- Finances
- Personal Behaviors

Examples include excessive course absences, drop in work productivity, loss of financial assistance, or lack of social connection

Alerts may go to:

- Academic Advising Staff Member
- Faculty Member
- Coach
- Student





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