



# BUILDING AN EXPLORATORY DREAM TEAM

*A Collaborative Approach to Meeting  
the Unique Needs of Undecided College Students*

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# Today's Presentation

- Higher Education Under Scrutiny
- Benefits of Higher Learning
- Dreams versus Reality
- Targeting Special Populations
- Meeting the Challenges of Undecided Students
- Tough Times Call for Tough Measures
- Collaboration in Action



# Recent Economic Trends

- **Rising Costs of Higher Education**
- **Increase in Students Receiving Financial Aid**
- **Reduced State Funding**
- **Greater Demand for Accountability and Student Outcome Data**

# Economic Benefits of a College Degree

2011 Bureau of Labor Statistics Data

Unemployment Rate	Education Attained	Median Weekly Earnings
2.5	Doctoral degree	1,551
2.4	Professional degree	1,665
3.6	Master's degree	1,263
4.9	Bachelor's degree	1,053
6.8	Associate degree	768
8.7	Some college	719
9.4	High-school Diploma	638
14.1	Less than a high school diploma	451



# Additional Benefits of a College Degree

## College Board's Education Pays 2010

**College Educated Adults are More Likely to:**

**Receive Health Insurance**

**Have Pension Benefits**

**Be More Satisfied with their Jobs**

**Engage in their Communities**

**Lead Healthier Lifestyles**

**Engage in Educational Activities with their  
Children**

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# Disconnect Between Dreams and Reality

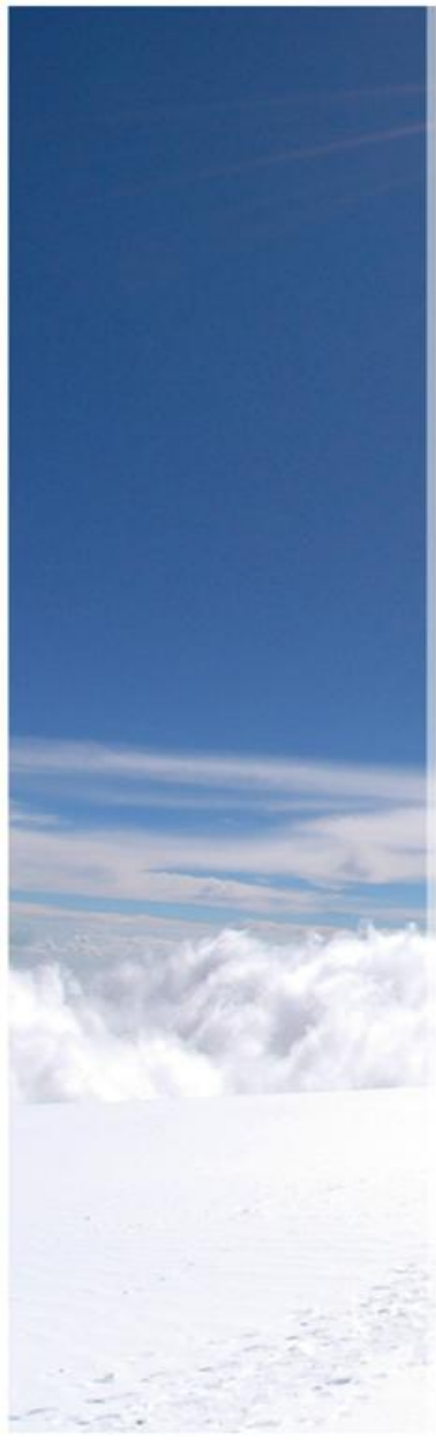
- **Only 57.7% of first-time students who sought a bachelor's degree completed it within 6 years.**  
-The College Completion Agenda
- **Only 77.1% of students who begin college will continue into their second year.**

-NCES, IPEDS Fall 2010 Enrollment Retention Rate File



# 2010 ACT Results

- **94 Interventions/Services**
- **258 Chief Academic Officers**
  - Incidence rates
  - Contributors to retention
- **Cross Analysis Revealed**
  - Advising special populations as highest ranked intervention contributing to student retention





# Informed by Research

- **When plans remain unformulated over extended periods of time, students are more likely to depart without completing their degree programs (Tinto, 1993, p. 41).**
- **College students clearly need support from effective advisors to negotiate the challenging process of educational planning and decision-making (Cuseo, 2008).**





# Setting the Stage: Advising Challenges

- **Students Required Comprehensive Approach**
- **Lack of Knowledge and Training on Career Integration**
- **Misconceptions of Undecided Population**
- **High Student to Advisor Ratio**
- **Limited Resources**



# Setting the Stage: Career Center Challenges

- **Perceptions of Career Services**
- **Mixed Messages from Administration**
- **Time Intensive Nature**
- **Limited Resources**
- **Population Specific Training**
- **Lack of Academic/Referral Knowledge**



# The FSU Partnership

- **History & Initial Contact**
- **Consistent Approach**
- **Staff Cross-training**
- **Create Shared Documents**
- **Effective Referrals**
- **Shared Programming**
- **Evaluation & Research**
- **Conference Participation**

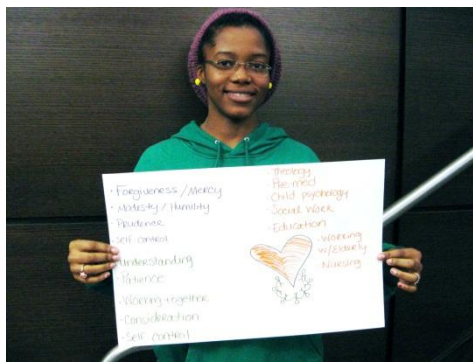
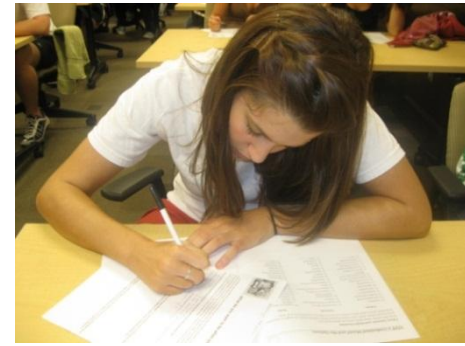


# FSU's Exploratory Program

- **Largest Major for Freshman**
- **Based on Leading Research in Career Development and Academic Advising**
- **Structured and Mandatory**
- **Retention Rate has Increased by 5%**
- **Declaration Rate 99%**
- **Outstanding Program Award**



# Collaboration in Action





# Ten Tips for Partnerships

- 1) **Take a Pro-active Approach**
- 2) **Discuss Shared Missions and Goals**
- 3) **Identify Resources**
- 4) **Find Community Partners**
- 5) **Create Print and Electronic Collaborative Resources**





# Ten Tips for Partnerships

**6) Co-present and Cross-train staff**

**7) Appoint Liaisons**

**8) Evaluate and Share Best Practices with Stakeholders**

**9) Connect with Professional Associations**

**10) Partner in Programming**

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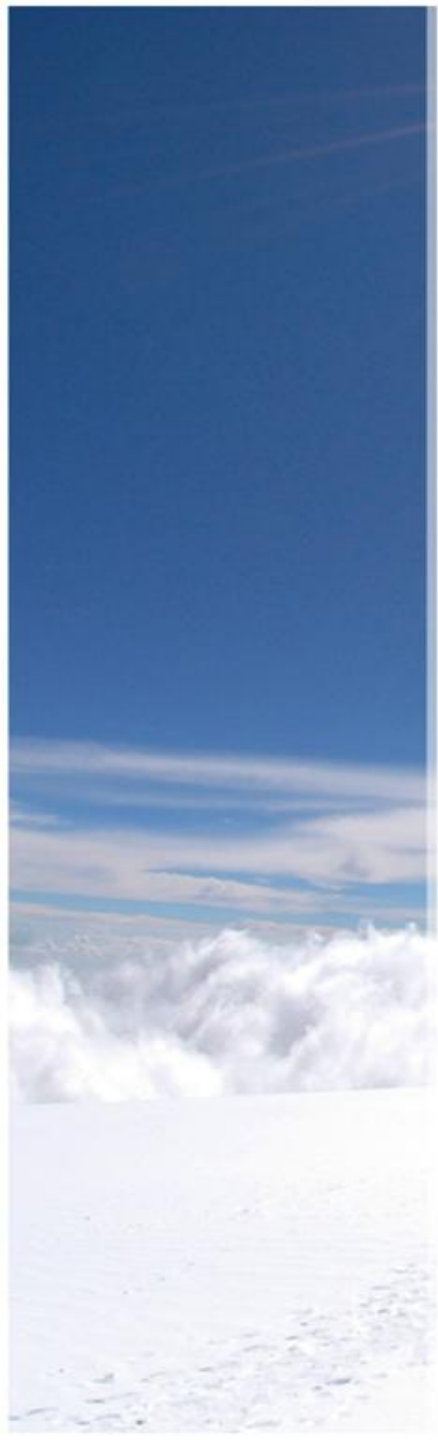
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**Thank You!**

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