Students in Need:
Two Early-Alert Approaches to Student Success
WELCOME! YOUR PRESENTERS

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Growing emphasis on retention, student success: state funding formulas, federal policies, parental expectations

Advising a key component of an effective student success policy:
- Should be a process that builds relationship; not just a one-time event

Early alert touted as an essential element of an effective policy
- Purdue experience as the example
- But, questions: exaggeration of effect?
- Early alert matters, but effectiveness shaped by human factors (how used by advisors/faculty, how experienced by students)
Early Alert History at Cleveland State University

- Midterm grade outreach for freshman - 2000
- Early Alert and Retention Software (Starfish) piloted in Fall 2012
- University-wide implementation Spring 2013 (faculty and advisors from all colleges)

Alerts at CSU: When – Who – What

- Week 4 and Week 9: Academic progress surveys for all undergraduate students
- As needed: Manual alerts by faculty and advisors
- Week 9: Midterm grades for freshman
- Alert types: Attendance concern, Low quiz/test score, Low class participation, Academic concern (other), Keep up the good work, Showing improvement
- Faculty alert triggers advisor outreach
Holistic approach
- Academic, Social, Financial

Cross-campus engagement
- Early Alerts
- Cohort Advising
- Purpose and Place course
- CARE team
- Enrollment Status Review Committee
- Collaborative Dismissal meetings
- Faculty/Staff Workshops
“Retention should not be the goal of an institution; the goal is the social and intellectual development of its students.

Retention is the outcome that occurs when providing an experience so educationally beneficial and developmentally advantageous, that students will form favorable perceptions regarding the quality of their experience and decide to persist and not leave.”

- Peterson et al., 1997, p.138
OUR REFLECTION

- Persistence is about Student Success and well-being, and helping students thrive
- The full human dimension
- Campus-wide Engagement
- Data-informed vs Data-driven
- Pros and Cons of Intrusiveness: Intervention strategies