

Introductions & Framing Our Discussions

Canadian SEM Summit

May 5, 2014

Windsor, Ontario



Planning Committee

- Ray Darling, University of Waterloo
- Darren Francis, University of the Fraser Valley
- Jody Gordon, University of the Fraser Valley
- Susan Gottheil, University of Manitoba
- Maria Lucido- Bezeley, Sheridan College
- Karen McCredie, Capilano University
- Clayton Smith, University of Windsor



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participants at:**

#SEMCANADA2014



Volunteers



Special Thanks...



Facilitators

Our Numbers

- 83 attending the Summit and 51 attended the pre-conference workshop
- 11 institutions have brought a team of 2 or more
- The largest teams are from:
 - University of Windsor – 20
 - University of Manitoba – 4
 - Humber College – 4
 - Sheridan College - 4

Roles Represented

- Academic Deans /Associate Deans/Faculty Members
- Student Affairs/Student Life/Dean of Students
- Registrar/Enrolment Services/Recruitment
- Institutional Analysis
- Teaching & Learning Centres
- First Generation Student Programs
- Aboriginal Programs
- Student Governments/First Generation Students
- Pathways Programs/School Boards

We are from...

- Representatives from all provinces
 - Ontario – 61
 - British Columbia – 8
 - Manitoba- 4
 - Alberta – 2
 - PEI – 1
 - Newfoundland – 1
 - Nova Scotia – 1
 - Saskatchewan- 1
 - Quebec – 1
 - New Brunswick - 1
- One representative from the US



Let's Meet Each Other

Our Style

- No vendors
- Facilitators; not presenters
- No silos here
- Its all about conversation and learning from each other

“First Generation”: Is There a Definition?

- Literature reviews show that the definition changes depending on the author and the concept’s usage
- What definition should we use for our SEM Summit discussions?
- Are there sub-sets within this group – and can their experiences be generalized?



Why Should We Focus on First Generation Students?

Why Focus on FG Students?

- Parental education is one of the strongest indicators of whether or not youth pursue PSE*
 - Students with at least one university-educated parent are 40% more likely to attend university than those who have a high school education or less (Zhao, 2012)
 - Throughout Canada having no family history of college or university is a significantly greater obstacle to higher education than family income (Finnie, Childs & Wismer, 2011; Zhao 2012)

*NOTE: Parental education *and* Aboriginal identity represent the two largest negative effects on PSE participation (Norrie & Zhao, 2011)

Why Focus on FG Students?

- FG university students have higher leaving rates and lower graduation rates
- These patterns are in contrast to FG college leaving rates where no such gaps exist
- FG immigrants have higher leaving rates than non-immigrants and much lower graduation rates
 - Yet FG immigrants access PSE, especially university, at considerably higher rates than non-immigrants
- Aboriginal students have the highest leaving rates than any group

Results from the US-based Baccalaureate & Beyond Longitudinal Study

- First Generation status is a significant predictor of GPA controlling for an extensive array of background and intervening variables.
- Results suggest that first-generation status significantly explains differences in cumulative GPA, accounting for nearly 22% ($p < .001$) of GPA variance.

-Strayhorn (2006)

BUT...

*Lumping all FG Students together
is a blunt policy tool.*

- Finnie, Childs & Qiu, 2012

Questions & Comments