Closing session group/table reports: Brainstorming ideas to foster student degree completion

Table 1
1. Focus on experiential learning for student engagement
2. Make First year experience “experiential”
3. Make internship or field experience required
4. Engage community for opportunities
5. Options to flip classroom interactions
6. Give faculty more info and research
7. Facilitate marketing to draw students

Table 2
1. Influenced by EAB and “undecided” info
2. Help students find the right path
3. “transition facilitator” to assist students
4. Change Career Services to Student Development
5. Focus on the student transitions

Table 3
1. Hybrid competency model as opposed to fixed timeframes
2. Not charge students for “do-overs” but instead allow them to continue to work toward success (without additional charge)
3. Does create issues with time to degree and financial aid
4. “non-expense success opportunity” for students

Table 4
1. Innovative communities
2. Better use of resources
3. Involve the local community
4. Continuous interview process for students in their field between students, faculty, employers
5. Better preparations can facilitate a clearer career path and increased responsibility

Table 5
1. Beginning student experiences
2. Identifying at-risk students
   a. Admissions
   b. Advising
   c. Classroom
3. Cooperative success initiatives on campuses
4. Addressing behavioral expectations
a. First-year experience/seminars

Table 6

1. Moving students to graduation
2. Accessibility of classes
   a. Fridays, evenings, weekends, etc.
3. Flexibility of faculty
   a. Year-long workload plan
   b. 12-month pay for 10-month contract
4. Top-down approaches that work

Table 7

1. Enrollees versus grads on degree areas
2. E.g. a top major is English, graduating 25% of enrolled figure, while Biology is at about 7%
3. Signs of successful degrees and careers
4. Rewards and incentives (e.g. book orders)
5. Apply incentives to student grads ($23k for a single student)

Table 8

1. Need to more about our students in order to tailor interventions
2. Channeling students toward majors in which they are more likely to succeed.
3. Course offering flexibility
4. Course collaboration between campuses

Table 9

1. Change culture of campus
2. Build campus community
3. Freshman scheduling
4. Expectation of 30 credit hours per year
5. Progression “pins”
6. “up and out”

Table 10

1. Incubative approach to academic pathways
2. Affordability/accessibility
3. Students may accumulate credit hours without yet having directions
4. Think of whole person (constructive breathholding)
5. Guide students into a set of courses for focused exploration
6. Facilitate advisor access with frequent visits to discuss progress and interests/aspirations
Table 11

1. Building a culture of completion requires that every person in the organization feels a sense of ownership
   a. Completion
   b. Productivity
   c. Quality
2. Involve faculty, student, community
   a. Impact on workforce development
3. “homeroom” concept
   a. Meet first two weeks of each semester to develop a bond within the group and with the faculty

Table 12

1. Culture of selectivity
   a. Think about students and completion rather than credit hours
   b. How can selectivity breed success
2. How does the academic year impact students?
   a. Look at the calendar and what it means to families, work, etc.
   b. Three 15-week terms
      i. Faculty workload
      ii. Faculty resources
      iii. Scheduling and balance of teaching, research

Table 13

1. Expectations of students
   a. High school placement exams
   b. Allows communication of expectations