FOUNDATIONS OF EXCELLENCE AT PURDUE

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What is Foundations of Excellence?

• Comprehensive Improvement process
• A task force-based form of assessment
• Affirms what is working well
• Identifies areas for improvement
• Results in a strategic action plan
  • A plan that must then be implemented!
• Moves the focus beyond retention
Why is a self study of the first year and/or transfer experience needed?

Because most campuses have programs and policies but not a comprehensive design/plan.
The Intellectual Framework

Foundational Dimensions

- Improvement
- Philosophy
- Organization
- Learning
- Roles & Purposes
- Diversity
- Faculty/Campus Culture
- All Students
- Transitions
The FoE Task Force: Composition and Roles

- Assessment Professionals
- Faculty
- Others who interact with students
- Student Affairs
- Students
- Student Affairs
Recommendations

- Over 50 action items emerged from the process and were voted on by the task force
- Synthesized into three broad themes
- Aligns closely with Purdue’s Strategic Plan
- Recommendations are still being discussed and are subject to change
- Final report to be released in next two weeks
- One central coordinating unit will be created that is a direct report to the Provost to coordinate efforts falling under the broad themes
Specialized and heightened focus on the experience of first-year students

- Adopt the Undergraduate Outcomes-Based Core Curriculum, remain involved in the discussion about increasing the portability of the Core
- Ensure that all students have a consistent and coordinated first-year seminar experience
- Expand admit-to-university opportunities
Coordination of curricular, co-curricular, and support efforts of first-year students

- Coordinate Academic Advising in the first year
- Coordinate First-year Studies
- Synchronize academic success efforts
- Ensure that enough course spaces are available to progress toward degree completion
- Oversee the streamlining of communication to first-year students
Establish an environment of improvement based on evidence

- Encourage professional development opportunities for faculty, instructors, and staff that work with first-year students
- Establish a coordinated effort to collect and disseminate information to enhance program efforts
- Create a greater emphasis on the scholarship of teaching at Purdue