

# UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE

<https://leadership.oregonstate.edu/provost/undergraduate-student-success-initiative>  
(search “Student Success Initiative” on OSU website)

Faculty Senate  
February 14



**Oregon State**  
University

# UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE

- Raise the first-year retention rate from 83.8% to 90%
  - Now 84.2%
- Raise the six-year graduation rate from 63.1% to 70%
  - Now 67.0%
- Close the opportunity gap for under-represented minority and low-income students
  - 1<sup>st</sup>-yr ret gap: URM = -5.8%, Pell = -6.8%
  - 6-yr grad gap: URM = -8.4%, Pell = -9.0%
- Increase high-achieving incoming freshmen to 50%
- Ensure all students have experiential learning opportunity



# Undergraduate Student Success Steering Committee

**The SSI Steering Committee will oversee the development and implementation of a comprehensive university-wide plan to advance OSU's undergraduate student success goals. Upon adoption, the committee will oversee progress—and report periodically—on the plan's implementation.**

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Dean, College of Science, *Co-Chair*

Dan Larson

Interim Vice Provost for Student Affairs, *Co-Chair*

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Dean, College of Public Health and Human Sciences

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Associate Vice President of Development, OSU Foundation

**With acknowledgments to:**

Michael Hansen and Mum Hayes

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

# Steering Committee Role

1. Produce a report that sets clear priorities to advance student success. Complete and available on USSI website.
2. Advise the Provost on highest impact priorities to advance Student Success
3. Identify, evaluate and present detailed and actionable pathways with clear responsibility
4. Facilitate engagement on student success throughout the university

# Findings and Direction

## We Engaged...

- ✓ More than 300 Faculty, Staff, Students
- ✓ University Leaders
- ✓ OSUF, INTO, eCampus
- ✓ Research and Literature
- ✓ National Benchmarks



## We Learned...

- Strengthen Student and Faculty Interaction
- Ease Navigation of OSU
- Increase Financial Support
- Strengthen Institutional Administration
- Create an Environment of Care



## We Prioritized...

- 1. Transition Experience*
2. Financial Aid & Scholarships
3. Faculty-Student Engagement
4. Curricular Excellence
5. Experiential Learning



# The Year of Transition Experience

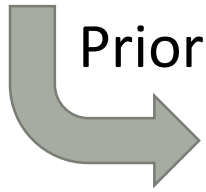
Focus areas being examined:

1. Faculty Mentoring
2. Transition Curriculum
3. Pre-arrival Information
4. Bridging Admissions and Enrollment
5. Community and Belonging

*2018 Survey:*

*91% of students who left OSU did so for "personal reasons."*

*76% of "personal reasons" was "felt like I did not belong."*



Prioritize based on...

- Scalable and financially viable with limited new resources
- Broadly viewed as impactful
- Creates energy and excitement across the university (all can participate)
- Has both college-level and central components
- Address areas that are current "pain points"

# Example: Transfer Student Experience

## What we know:

- $\frac{1}{4}$  of OSU students are considered “Transfer Students”
- Transfer student success is declining
- Not all Transfer Students come from community colleges
- Transfer Students need focused support in their transition

## Priorities:

- Improve pre-admission advising
- Improve credit articulation timing
- Increase and allocate aid
- Improve inclusion and belonging
- Transfer-friendly representation in measurements



# Example: Faculty/Student Mentor Program

Meaningful Connections with Faculty Make a Difference!

Pilot program:

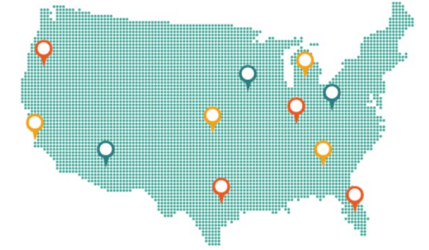
- 125 faculty volunteers
- 333 students
- 125 peer mentors



Study being led by Gloria Crisp in College of Education



# Leveraging Partnerships University Innovation Alliance



- Continued participation – Alex Aljets, OSU’s UIA Fellow, Jesse Nelson, Associate Provost for Academic Achievement, UIA Liaison
- UIA and the USSI - sharing knowledge and discovery across the 11 Alliance universities
- Focus on Chatbots
- College to Career Initiative
- Ongoing initiatives:
  - Beaver Completion Grants
  - MAAPS Proactive Advising





### About the Summit

The Undergraduate Student Success Summit brings together thought leaders and innovators to discuss ways to enhance the student experience and outcomes at OSU. From the work of the Student Success Initiative Steering Committee and the Student Success Summit, the following focus areas have been identified that will guide future work at the Summit.

1. **Transition Experiences.** Support the student transition into OSU, whether from high school, community college, or as an older adult. Build a culture that fosters relationships between students and faculty, with an emphasis on mentoring.
2. **Financial Aid and Scholarships.** Efficiently distribute financial aid and scholarships to those whose success will most be advanced through the aid. To a first approximation, this means providing financial aid to those most in need.
3. **Faculty-Student Engagement.** Significantly expand faculty-student connections outside of class to address student needs and establish an appropriate disciplinary framework, focusing on the first two years a student is at OSU.
4. **Curricular Excellence.** Improve and streamline curriculum, curricular innovation, and instructional excellence.
5. **Experiential Learning.** Expand access to experiential learning opportunities for students.

# Goals

- Focus attention on OSU's student success goals,
- Report on progress and problems with student success to the whole campus,
- Exchange student success knowledge across the whole campus and stakeholders,
- Solicit advice from staff and faculty, who are delivering student engagement and support, for central actions and policies related to student success

# Still make progress on the other elements:

1. Financial Aid & Scholarships
2. Faculty-Student Engagement
3. Curricular Excellence
4. Experiential Learning

## **Investments:**

FY 2018: \$1.8M

FY 2019: \$2.5M Recurring

## **Reallocation based on priorities:**

FY 2019: \$250K