

California State University, Fresno

Since we are only to highlight one project, California State University at Fresno recommends the establishment of an all campus task force or committee for student success. We call ours the Student Success Task Force (or SSTF) and it was established four years ago in response to the Northridge Report on Student Success. Our SSTF is comprised of representatives/leaders from Academic and Student Affairs. In its first year it developed six projects that we believed would most likely accelerate student success on our campus as measured by improved retention and graduation rates. The task force made its recommendations and then volunteered to “stay on” and implement the recommendations. At that point it became an on-going committee yet we retained the original name (because we liked it). SSTF is co-chaired by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Vice President for Student Affairs. The Chair of the faculty senate is one of its members.

As part of this effort, we recommend identifying a limited number of specific initiatives. Those we selected were:

- Modifying our PeopleSoft Student Administration program in order to identify students who have not declared a major or have not seen an adviser by 45 and 75 units respectively and creating a registration block for both student groups;
- Establishing freshman learning communities within our General Education offerings and tracking our efforts;
- Expanding the University Mentoring Program by recruiting mentors for each new student and by designing an online series of informational messages for all freshmen and first semester sophomores;
- Expanding and requiring that all entering freshman and transfer students attend the Dog Days New Student Orientation;
- Building interactive RoadMaps to graduation for undergraduate and graduate programs and modifying PeopleSoft Student Administration to populate the student RoadMap as students progress toward degree; and
- Conducting exit interviews of students who have dropped out or left campus to determine factors contributing to their decision.