



A Study of College and Career Readiness in SC

The National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition will provide practical and methodological support in the delivery of research artifacts for the goals and objectives of the South Carolina Center for College and Career Readiness at Francis Marion University.

Part I: Examining the Current State of Knowledge on College and Career Readiness In the first year, research will include an audit of existing knowledge and previously collected data on the current state of college and career readiness in South Carolina, with particular attention paid to this state's efforts contextualized within the larger regional and national activities centered on this topic. This will include identifying the location of data and research clearinghouses, collecting existing scholarship and policy information, and/or acquisition of rights and licenses to conduct secondary analyses on previously collected data.

Part II: Survey of P-20 Initiatives The National Resource Center will develop a survey to be administered by the Center that will inventory the various statewide initiatives currently ongoing across the state. This survey will be administered at the secondary and post-secondary levels, including middle schools, high schools, technical colleges, two-year colleges, and four-year colleges and universities from both public and private sectors.

The instrument will potentially include questions in such areas as:

- » Institutional characteristics
- » Curricular initiatives
- » Extracurricular initiatives
- » Third-party services and resources
- » Administration of the initiatives (Who is in charge? Where are they housed?)
- » Connections of programs in middle and high schools with local colleges and universities
- » Dual enrollment programs
- » Objectives of college and career readiness activities
- » Scholarship programs
- » Resources dedicated to college readiness

This survey will be conducted in early fall 2015. We will be sending an invitation to participate to the chief academic officer at each college and university in SC. We ask that you or a designee identify the college and career readiness programs on your campus in preparation for this survey. If there is a specific individual you would like to identify as the appropriate person to send the invitation to the survey, please let us know at nrcrsch@mailbox.sc.edu

About the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition

The National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition serves as the trusted expert, internationally recognized leader, and clearinghouse for scholarship, policy, and best practice for all postsecondary student transitions. The following statements of mission and core commitments provide a foundation for these activities and guide the Center's efforts.

Mission Statement

Building upon its history of excellence as the founder and leader of the first-year experience movement, the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition serves education professionals by supporting and advancing efforts to improve student learning and transitions into and through higher education. We achieve this mission by providing opportunities for the exchange of practical and scholarly information as well as the discussion of trends and issues in our field through the convening of conferences and other professional development events such as institutes, workshops, and online learning opportunities; publication of scholarly practice books, research reports, a peer-reviewed journal, electronic newsletters, and guides; generating, supporting, and disseminating research and scholarship; hosting visiting scholars; and maintaining several online channels for resource sharing and communication, including a dynamic website, listservs, and social media outlets.

Core Commitments

Student Transitions: Student transitions such as the first year of college, sophomore year, transfer experience, degree completion, and new graduate student experiences are critical junctures in the educational pipeline and unique opportunities for postsecondary student learning and development. We strive to set a standard of excellence for supporting student transitions and facilitating educational success for a diversity of students in the 21st century.

Connection Between Research and Practice: We believe that good practice in higher education must rely upon a foundation of high-quality research. Conversely, good research draws from and informs practices in our field. As such, the work of the National Resource Center advances and supports both scholarly practice and applied research.

Inclusion: We strive to create a supportive and professional environment where a diversity of viewpoints are recognized and considered in the ongoing dialogue on student transitions. One of the greatest strengths of the first-year experience and students in transition movement is its ability to cut across traditional boundaries in higher education and involve professionals from multiple sectors of education, institutional roles, and disciplinary perspectives as well as from a variety of personal backgrounds, institutional environments, and educational experiences.

Collaboration: Partnership and collaboration draw from the interdisciplinary nature of higher education, communicate an ongoing commitment to inclusion, and, ultimately, enhance the success of our efforts to support student transitions. The National Resource Center models effective collaboration and aims to create intentional and integrative connections between colleagues, units, organizations, systems, educational sectors, regions, and countries in support of student transition and success.

Lifelong Learning: We believe that all educators continue to be lifelong learners. We support a climate of intellectual curiosity and provide the tools and media to pursue professional development and an ongoing process of inquiry, exploration, and discovery.