INSPIRATION TO INNOVATE

COYOTE FIRST STEP
California State University, San Bernardino
CSUSB AT GLANCE

- 20,776 students
- 80% first gen
- 63% receive Pell grant
- Average age of an undergrad: 22
- Ethnicity distribution:
  - Hispanic: 7%
  - White: 16%
  - African-American: 7%
  - Asian-American: 7%
  - Other: 70%
BIG AUDACIOUS GOALS

- Math
- Writing
- Engagement
- High Quality
- Broad Scope
- No Cost
- Inclusive
- Effective
- Respect for Family
COYOTE FIRST STEP
Early Start Requirement

**2015**
- Increased Level in Math: 93%
- Math ready: 66%

**2016**
- Increased Level in Math: 90%
- Math ready: 59%
WHAT’S IN THE WAY OF OUR SUCCESS?

Institutional Barriers:

- Remember hearing: Look to your left and look to your right? Two of you will not . . .

- Institutions behave as if they give us an opportunity and our job is to take advantage of it. If we didn’t, “Oh, well.”

- We were either college ready or not.

- Colleges and universities will not (should not) get off the hook so easily.
WHAT IS CSUSB DOING TO IMPROVE STUDENT SUCCESS?

- Our Coyote First STEP (CFS) intends to change institutional beliefs, attitudes and behaviors about blaming students for a “lack of college preparedness”

- CFS abandons the “college-ready” problem in favor of becoming a “student-ready” institution.
CFS: ONE SOLUTION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

CFS is a campus strategy designed to do what it takes to help students succeed by allocating resources necessary for student success.

FOR EXAMPLE:
CFS students spend 3 weeks (or more) living and learning on campus (at no cost) for developmental coursework in Math and Writing with engagement across the co-curriculum.
Solutions

CFS:

- Students and their families learn to navigate the university experience.
- Includes intrusive advising on topics such as enrollment in college-level courses and establishing structured course schedules.
- Incentivizes students to take 15 credit hours
- Creates Social Support Networks
- Cultivates Confidence
- Practice Success Strategies
SOLUTIONS

CFS:

- Uses EAB advising software with predictive analytics to allow us to anticipate academic challenges before they occur so that we can address issues through collaborative and collegial support.

- Teaches students about the need for advising, building academic roadmaps and accessing support to help improve retention and ultimately graduation rates.

- Develops Institutional Ties.
CHALLENGES

Barriers We Overcame:

- Lack of adequate facilities and space.
- Financial support to keep CFS ‘free’ and maintain its sustainability.
- Collegiality between academic relatives
- Changing institutional beliefs, attitudes and behaviors towards the meaning of student success.