



Building Community and Institutional Partnerships to Support Funding and Success Initiatives

Dr. Dekia Smith

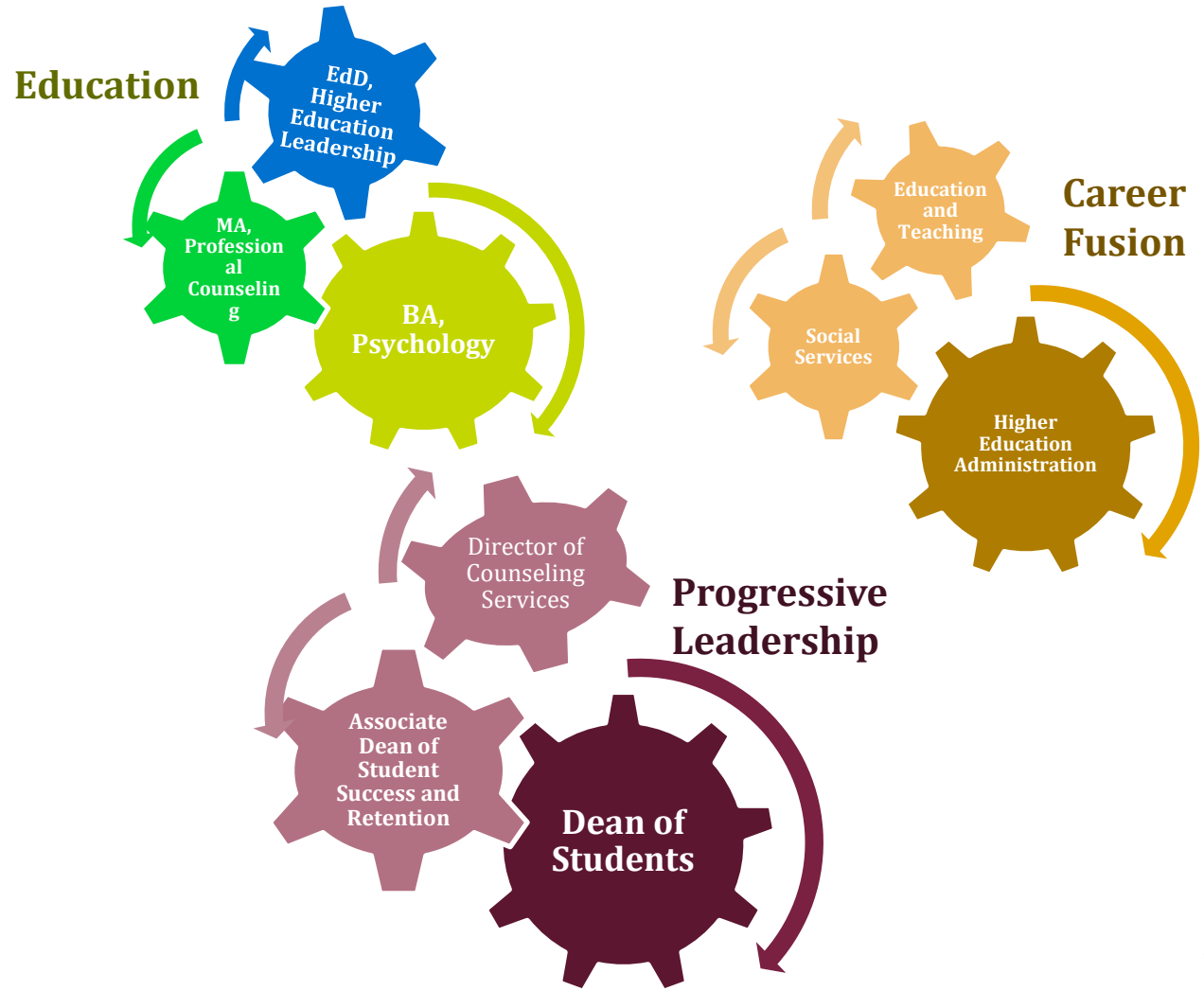
Dean of Students

Bucks County Community College

Goals of the Presentation

1. Introduction
2. Developing Areas of Focus
3. Institutional & Community Challenges
4. Opportunities for Partnerships and Collaboration
5. Q & A

Background



A person wearing a blue checkered shirt is holding a smartphone in their right hand and has their left hand on a laptop keyboard. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text 'Institutional & Community Challenges' is centered in white.

Institutional & Community Challenges



“Two things you are in control of in life,
are your **ATTITUDE** and your **EFFORT**”

Billy Cox



RETENTION POTENTIAL

AREAS OF FOCUS

FOCUSED EFFORTS

- Retention is directly connected to enrollment.
- Specialized Populations
 - Adult Learners
 - First Gen
 - Students of Color
 - International Students
 - Students with moderate-high ID
 - Veterans
 - Returning Citizen
- Covid Impact
- Basic Needs

LEVERAGING THE COMMUNITY

- Building community partnerships.
- Bringing resources to campus.
- Utilizing the County Needs Assessment.
- Understanding the social and educational need(s) of the community.
 - Expanding Services
 - Economic Development
 - Early Career Engagement



RETENTION POTENTIAL

AREAS OF FOCUS

THE ROLE OF DATA AND ANALYTICS

- Data forces us to identify new markets.
 - Students of Color
 - First Generation Students
 - Parenting Students
 - Students with Cognitive/Intellectual Disabilities
 - Veterans and Returning Citizen
 - Academic Restart Potential
 - Academic Warning/Probation/Suspension
- Predictive Behavior Analytics
 - The goal is to be **PRO**active not **Reactive**
 - This drives strategy
 - You **MUST** stick to the plan!!

THE VIABILITY OF OUR EFFORTS

- Rethinking early and risk intervention
- Historical Trends
 - What do we know?
 - How do we use it to inform our next step(s)?
- People + Resources = Success
 - How do we get the best out of what we have?
 - How can we capitalize on our strengths?
- Understand why we are doing what we are doing.
- Can't be afraid to fail.
- If it doesn't work, say goodbye.



Engagement Challenges

- Increased demand for connecting with students.
- Embedding the community within the community college world



Financial Challenges

- Declining enrollments means stressed budgets.
- Inability to hire more staff.
- Need to expand services and student support
- Institutions and local partners need increased revenue and engagement.



Need to Increase Services

- Student needs for support is increasing.
- Institutional demand for creating retention goals.
- Pressure of creating success initiatives with limited or no funding.
- Local organizations want to connect but don't know how.



Community Partners

Economic Self-Sufficiency Program: Coaches On Campus

- Direct referrals on campus. Coaches are part of Student Services Team.
 - June – December 2022- 39 students enrolled
 - January – June 2023- 17 students enrolled
- Engagement with faculty and staff
- Immediate financial and emergency support

Future Impact

- BCOC will hire a Full Time Coach
- Program continuation and expansion AY 23-24
- **No Cost Funding Impact**
 - Two (2) “Coaches On Campus” (2 days/week)
 - Direct engagement with students
 - Direct financial/food housing support for students



A person is shown from the chest down, wearing a blue checkered shirt. They are holding a smartphone in their right hand and have their left hand on a laptop keyboard. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text "Local Government" is centered in white, sans-serif font.

Local Government

Workforce Economic Development: Career Coaches On Campus

- Bucks & PA CareerLink (PACL) Collaboration
- One-Stop services to students & residents throughout the county
- Creation of PACL micro-centers on each campus
- Linkage between Career Services, Academic Departments & PACL
- **Grant Funding *- \$366,833**
 - Direct student support on campus
 - Employee support: Hired three (3) Coaches
 - Professional Development for all staff
 - Hosted three (3) Career Fairs with two (2) more planned for FA 23



ARPA Grant Funding: County Support: Veterans Support Services

- New Coordinator Position
- Funding for Support Services and Professional Development
- Renewed Commitment to Veterans/Military Connected Students
- Institutional Support- New Veterans Lounge *
- New Events- Military Open House and Community Outreach*
- Grant Funding *- \$200,000
 - Direct student support: Hired Veterans Coordinator
 - Funding for mental health/wellness support
 - Professional Development opportunities
 - Hosting first Military & Community Outreach Open House- SUM 23



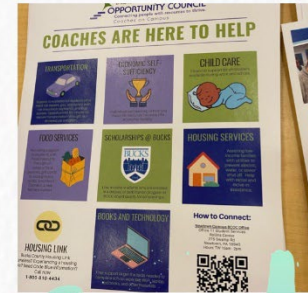


Institutional Collaborations

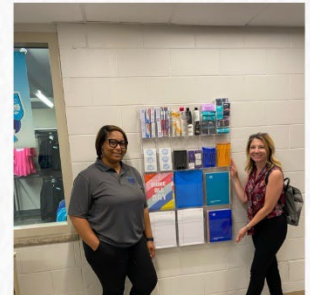
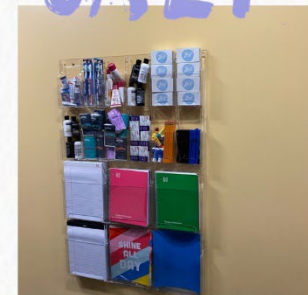
Foundation and Alumni Relations: Basic Needs & Emergency Fund Initiative

- “On The Go” Hanging Pantries
- Emergency Fund
- Basic Needs Case Manager
- Bucks 360/Act 101
- PA Hunger Free Campus Designation- PA Dept of Education

- Direct Student Support- \$55,000
- Employee Support: \$5,000
 - Basic Needs Case Manager
- Grant Funding *- \$60,000 (PA Hunger Free Campus)



Good
Vibes
ONLY



“

Difficult roads often lead
to beautiful destinations.
The best is yet to come.

Zig Ziglar

Takeaways

1. Identify your need/challenge
2. Connect with those who are willing to take risks.
3. Find the space
4. Search for new partnership (they will come, you just have to build it)

Thank you

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?



Contact me at:

<https://poplme.co/LnBgPhTV/1>