

The following serves as an update to efforts related to Strategic Priority 1b (Increase enrollment, retention and graduation rates - increasing support for personal concerns that impact enrollment and retention). This effort is being headed by Drs. Allen Ward, Mari Banks, and Deborah Deckner-Davis, but is also drawing upon the expertise of numerous units across Clayton State University's campus.

During the initial planning phase of this work group, 7 Major Tasks were identified, several building on each other, and each with multiple subtasks.

I. Evaluate extant Student Support Services and literature regarding Student Support Services in five areas of student functioning

- Academic
- Social
- Emotional
- Physical
- Financial

II. Use data gathered in step one to identify and prioritize focus areas.

III. Identify specific goals, objectives, and actions steps to create support, or market Student Support Services in identified areas.

IV. Create, support, or market (implement or enhance) Student Support Services resources that have been identified as needed/in need

V. Devise training model for educating faculty and staff regarding Student Support Services

VI. Establish annual Student Support Services Data Share Meetings that will result in brainstorming/planning for upcoming year based on programmatic outcomes

VII. Develop and implement formative and summative assessment to monitor strategic plan impact

Subsequent to the planning phase, most work has centered on Major Task 1. During fall of 2016, the work group has met with representatives of an array of student support units on campus to start to evaluate the extant student services at Clayton State University. Moreover, chairs of this work group are serving on campus committees with objectives that dovetail with this work group's efforts. Specifically, Dr. Banks is serving on the Student Homelessness and Food Insecurity Advisory Committee. Dr. Deckner-Davis is serving on the Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Team (ADEPT).

This work group has also acquired a research assistant who is doing a systematic literature review on national models of student services. The work of this student assistant has already highlighted some potential action items with respect to the effectiveness of our campus

communication strategies for services at Clayton State University that appear to be relatively unknown to our students.

Cumulatively, most of the fall could be characterized as foundation building for subsequent efforts. The one exception to this trends relates to Major Task 4a - Establish child care resources as a part of university student services. With this objective, we have witnessed an early and exciting success. Specifically, as of fall 2016, Clayton State University has entered into an Memorandum of Understanding with Quality Care for Children through their BOOST initiative that will provide for child care subsidies for up to 100 of Clayton State University's student parents. Qualified student parents are eligible for a subsidy that will cover up to \$125.00 per week of child care for a maximum 30 months, yielding a maximum individual subsidy of \$16,250. All told this translates to upwards of \$1.6 million in child care subsidies for Clayton State University's student parents.

During this fall the first round of eligible students were identified and five children were selected to pilot this program. A larger group of student parents will be selected for participation starting spring of 2017. Moreover, as part of Clayton State University's commitments in this agreement, campus wide data was collected on the level of need for child care at Clayton State University. This data will strengthen this work group's ability to address this need for student parents who may not be eligible for participation in the BOOST program.