Department: Multicultural Center

Date of Submission: 6/17/2016
Division/College: Student Affairs
Person Responsible: Pamela F Hopson
Email: pfhopson@usi.edu

Goal: Access and Opportunity by Design

Strategic Action #1: The “Strong Start Program” will increase retention and persistence of urban students from under-represented populations. Through a spin-off of the University Diversity Committee, “Strong Start” will guide the transition of students into this institution of higher education and persist to graduation. Through a collaborative model, the initiative will help students navigate the university while increasing their ability to transition into and complete their degree program with confidence and success. In essence, the initiative will prepare the students to live wisely in a diverse and global community.

Strategic Action Metric #1: Each semester, we will review Key Performance Indicators (KPI) (credit accumulation and course performance via the grade point average) in order to evaluate the persistence of participants within the cohort(s) to determine what percentage of the cohort is on track for degree attainment. We will also compare cohort(s) to data from prior years. This data represents students who participated in at least one club/organization or attended one event that falls under the auspices of the Multicultural Center. This comparison is twofold: to determine if the model is having a positive effect on persistence and to see if we are retaining 80% of the participants from semester to semester.

Strategic Action #2:

- **Strategic Action Metric #2:** Track how often the participants of “Strong Start” are utilizing the wraparound services and their reasons for doing so. This will measure the extent to which a student feels engaged in the college environment and how the student is moving towards self-sufficiency and advocacy. As a baseline, we will use the results from a focus group conducted during the 2014-2015 academic year to compare the responses to see if there is an improvement in a sense of belonging. This particular metric will also help to identify and correct any barriers to college success. In order to ensure the integrity of the focus groups and their results, the same questions will be used each time.

Strategic Action #3:

Strategic Action Metric #3: