Hook, Line, and Sink ‘Em--Improve Student Retention

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Objectives

1. Share our retention story
2. Show how we collect data about our students
3. Provide strategies and takeaways that can easily be implemented by faculty, staff, and students
Retention at Principia College

• Student Support Group (SSG)
• Retention, Persistence, and Completion Committee (RPC)
• Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)
  – “Promoting Academic Excellence”
  – CTL Programs: Academic Probation, Conditional Admits, Honors Programs, Academic Peer Mentors, Writing tutors, Workshops (WISE and RISE), and Learning Committees (International, Student, and Faculty)
Get to Know You Activity
M&M’S Activity

Red: An academic success I recently had.
Orange: One study strategy I can apply to a class I am in now.
Yellow: A time management strategy I found successful.
Blue: A way I stay motivated.
Green: An organization strategy I can’t live without.
Brown: Something I recently learned to do related to academics.
Student Learning Community (SLC)

Who?

When?

What?

Why?
Empowering the Students

- Strategies
- Support
- Self-efficacy
- Accountability
- Take risks
- Choose next steps
“Reeling ‘Em In” Activity
“Reeling ‘Em In” Activity

• On the post-it draw a picture of a graduate
• List the skills you believe future employers will be looking for in you as a graduate
“Reeling ‘Em In” Activity continued...

• Now think about each of the classes you have this semester.
• What skills listed as a graduate are being developed in each of the courses you are currently taking?
• What goals are you going to set based on this activity and how are you going to achieve them?
Data Collection

How do we collect and why?

• Google Apps For Education (GAFE) - log, lesson plans, and overview
• Grades (meet with Registrar)
• Academic Action Plan
• One-on-one meetings
What can be done with limited resources?

- Start small and use what you have
- Build community
- Keep in contact with struggling students
- Be available
What we’ve learned...

• Students’ voices matter for buy-in
• One size does not fit all
• Empowering the students is key
• Communication is needed
  – Alternative methods of communication
• Every semester is different but there is a minimum structure
  – Weekly SLC meetings
  – One-on-ones
  – Set goals
  – Meet with Registrar
Reflection
Contact Information

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