

### **Project Team**

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## **New report highlights widespread, but inconsistent, institutional efforts to facilitate student success in the first year of college.**

*Higher education institutions in the five-state Linking Institutional Policies to Student Success (LIPSS) pilot study have done approximately **one-half of what they could be doing** to align their policies with the available research on first-year student success.*

**Assessment and Data-Driven Decision-Making:** Most participating institutions have engaged in formal and wide-spread data collection activities related to institutional research, program assessment, and course evaluations. Far less common, however, is the use of such data for instructional development, academic planning, and resource allocation.

**Coordination of the First Year of College:** Many institutions have developed mechanisms to coordinate the first-year of college (e.g. committees, offices, individuals). However, these mechanisms may not be maximizing the potential for high-level, cross-divisional collaboration.

**Faculty Engagement with First-Year Students:** Although most schools offer first-year seminars and have early alert systems that promote course-related interaction between faculty members and students, policies supporting or encouraging student-faculty interaction outside of the classroom are less common. Policies requiring or systematically rewarding faculty members for such engagement are particularly uncommon.

**Information Dissemination:** Institutions appear quick to share relevant information with key stakeholders (i.e., students, parents, guidance counselors), often front-loading information before students even attend their first class. But fewer than half of the surveyed institutions reiterate those early messages to students after classes have begun.

Project staff will present initial findings at the following conferences in the coming months:

- Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U in Atlanta)  
(Friday, January 25, at 10:30 A.M.)
- First-Year Experience (FYE in Orlando)  
(Sunday, February 24, at 3:00 P.M.)

Attached/enclosed are two documents for your review: a brief *Modal Institution Report* and our 40-page comprehensive initial report. Please feel free to visit the project website ([cherti.fsu.edu/LIPSS](http://cherti.fsu.edu/LIPSS)), share the accompanying reports, attend one of our conference sessions, or contact Brad Cox, the project's Principal Investigator, for additional information.

### **Coordinating Partners**

National Survey of  
Student Engagement

Florida State University's Center  
for Higher Education Research,  
Teaching, and Innovation

TG Public Benefit  
Grant Program