

# Using Data-Activated Student Success Strategies to Advance Equity

---

**Karl Smith**

*Vice President of Student Affairs  
Tacoma Community College*

# Tacoma Community College

# 6,182

## Total Students

60 Associate Degrees	4 Applied Bachelors Degrees	24 Professional Certificates
----------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------------------

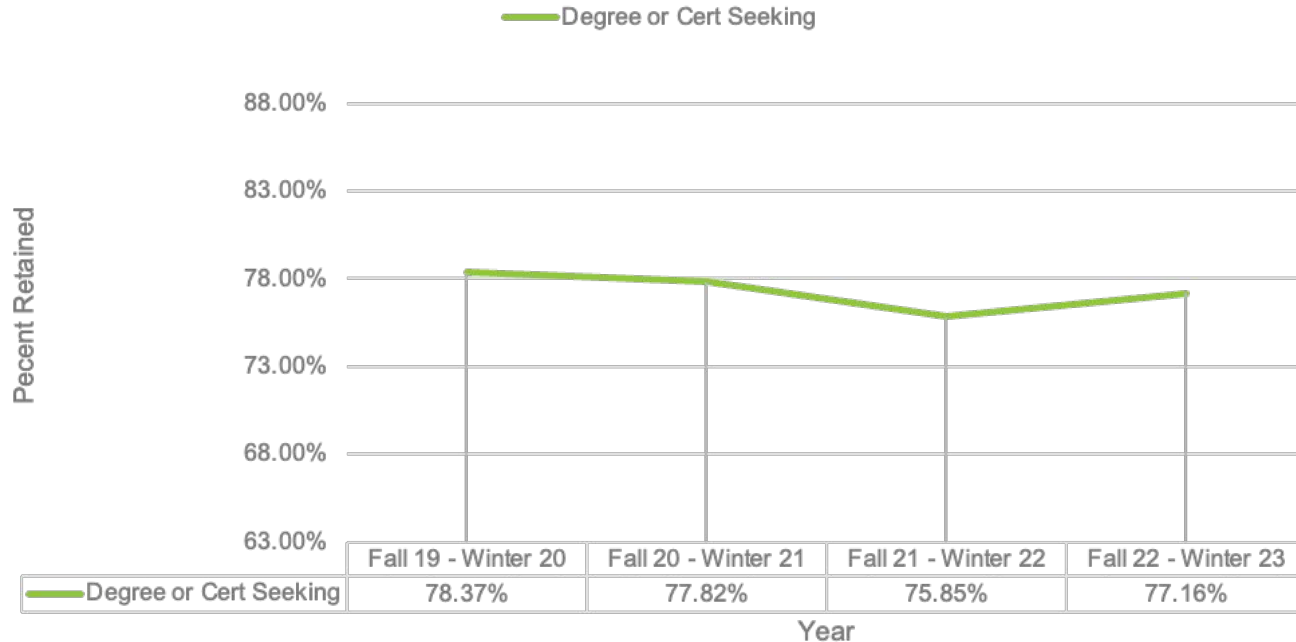
**FOCUSED ON:** ACCESS & EQUITY  
**GROUNDING WORK IN:** GUIDED PATHWAYS

41% Part Time Students	54% Academic Program	30% Workforce Training
9% Basic Education for Adults	20% HS Dual Enrolled	60% Female
51% Black, Indigenous or People of Color	47% are over the age of 24	42% receive need based aid



# Our Focus on Enrollment & Student Success

## TCC Fall to Winter Retention Rate



### TCC Quarterly Goals:

- **80%**  
Fall to Winter  
Retention  
Rate
- **75%**  
Course Success  
Rate



# Creating an Equitable Service Model

**Every student has the ability to succeed when given access to the right resources...**

- *First come, First served* is not a “fair” approach
- Create an approach that supports the success of every student
- Provide the right support, not the same support
- Balance resources and resource allocation so students who need specific support have access when they need it
- Using data-informed, targeted interventions increases efficiency and effectiveness, enables you to scale



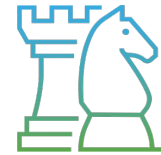
# Actionable Analytics Show Who Needs Help & How to Help Them

## The Role of Analytics:

- Predictive analytics tell us what could happen not what will happen
- They highlight an opportunity to influence the outcome
- Multiple data points & educator expertise provide necessary context to make information actionable

## Contextual & Actionable:

- Drop in persistence likelihood from last week
- Drop in grade in a course in the middle of the term
- If a student is fully online and not logging into their online account
- Getting a “C” in a course where a “B” significantly improves completion



## Institution & Student-Group Specific Insights

*Equip You to Be Proactive & Targeted*



# Designing Equitable Engagement



## Resource Referral, One To Many

- Social Media
- Print and Digital Flyers
- Mass Email Message
- Video Clips

## Periodic Engagement, One To Few

- Mobile Communication
- Invitation to Virtual Programs or Events
- Personalized Emails
- Group Advising

## High Engagement, One To One

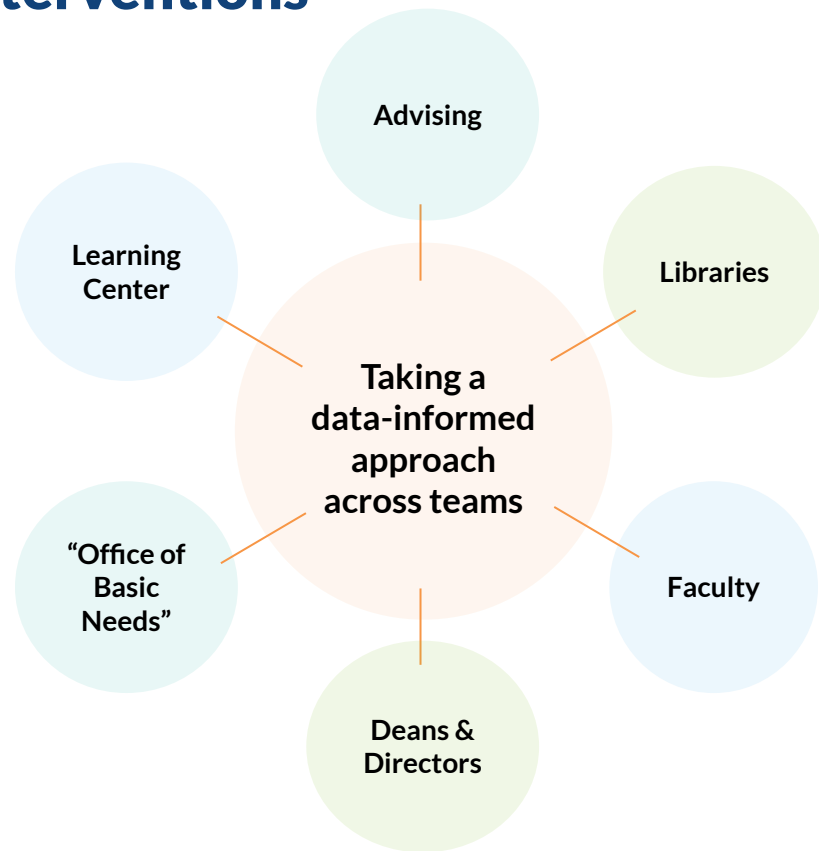
- Shared Comments or Notes
- Virtual Appointments
- Phone Outreach



# Disaggregated, Distributed Insights Unlock Targeted Strategies & Interventions

A comprehensive understanding across the student experience can inform coordinated strategies & interventions

- ✓ Re-thinking priority registration policy
- ✓ Advising appointment requirements
- ✓ Proactive Phone campaigns
- ✓ Which courses
- ✓ Tutoring outreach based on grade relative to section grade



# It Doesn't Work Without Enabling Your Team

## PROBLEM

### Common Challenges and Resistance Hinder Adoption:



- ✓ Work is people-driven so the data piece might feel like it changes the dynamics or feels uncomfortable
- ✓ Have to reframe around sense of fairness
- ✓ Shift from “*Working on a hunch*” to using data can create defensiveness
- ✓ Often will look for anecdotes / reasons to not use the data

## ANSWER

### Professional Development and Training are Critical:



- ✓ Train around what analytics are, and what they are not
- ✓ Help your teams understand the information and how to use it – *actionability is key*
- ✓ Provide resources for them to reference over time, as strategies evolve
- ✓ Create space for questions
- ✓ Make them a part of adding to and enriching the data (*tracking*)





## Same Approach for All Students



## Data-Informed, Targeting



# Benefits of an Equity Based Service Model

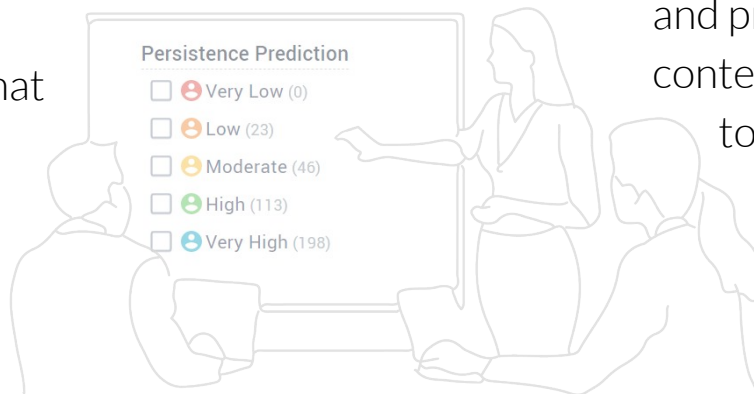
- ✓ Visibility into data enables an equity minded approach vs. working on assumptions
- ✓ Creates capacity to implement a holistic advising approach – **can't do that with a 400:1 caseload**
- ✓ Allows you to focus on the areas that can have the biggest impact on your student outcomes and institutional goals
- ✓ Combination and coordination of targeted strategies across institution = **9% increase in enrollment Spring 2023**



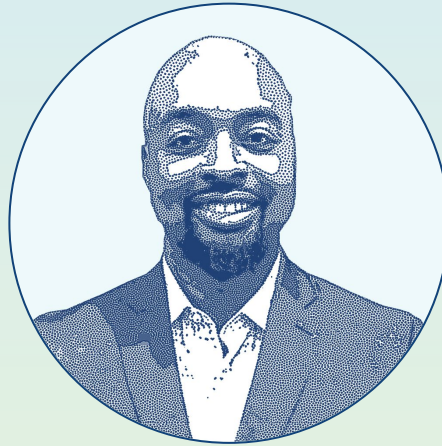
# Insights & Recommendations for Other Leaders

- ✓ Every student has the ability to succeed given the right resources
- ✓ Some students need help more than others to be successful
- ✓ Using analytics provides a different perspective to what is “fair” and what is needed

- ✓ Providing the “right” support versus the “same” support makes your organization more efficient and more effective
- ✓ You have to have real-time and predictive data that is contextual to your institution to be proactive and targeted



# Questions & Comments



**Karl Smith**

[ksmith@tacomacc.edu](mailto:ksmith@tacomacc.edu)

