



# SERS Grant Outcomes

**First Year Students**



# Juliette Biondi



Director of High School Programs

Chattanooga State Community College



# CAUSE Grant 2014-2015

College Access for Urban School Excellence



# CAUSE: Objectives

- ▶ Provide college access opportunities to high need secondary schools in urban areas.
- ▶ Provide high school juniors who were not college ready (below 19 ACT) the opportunity to take the Chattanooga State's College Success class during their fall semester in conjunction with ACT prep.
- ▶ Program participation would:
  - ▶ Increase overall ACT score and college readiness for each student
  - ▶ Students would be more likely to enroll in additional dual enrollment classes their senior year.
  - ▶ High schools that traditionally did not offer on-ground dual enrollment courses would experience the benefit of partnering with ChSCC to increase college access at their school.



## Target Population

### High Schools:

- Urban setting
- High percentage of free and reduced lunch
- Low ACT score average
- Willingness to participate
- Staffing considerations

### Students:

- High School Juniors
- First-time dual enrollment students
- Below college readiness benchmarks



# Logistics

The College sent high quality dynamic instructors to the area high schools to teach three days a week.

High schools provided an in-house faculty/staff member that took the Princeton ACT prep course prior to the start of term and offered ACT prep during the two “off days”.

Students received the traditional curriculum of the college success course

Students received an official transcript from the college upon completion of the course

The College provided a writing coordinator who visited each high school twice during the semester. This tenured faculty member gave students a snapshot of the general expectations for college writing.

SERS grant covered the costs of instruction, tuition gap funding, textbooks, swag and sponsored events.



# Take-Aways . . .

## Data Points:

- ▶ On average the students increased their ACT composite score by 2 points.
- ▶ Over 90% of students completed the course with a “B” or better
- ▶ Each school that participated in this program now has an active on-ground dual enrollment program
- ▶ 20% of participating students went on to take College English or Math their senior year.



# Tiffany Bellafant Steward



Director of New Student Orientation & First-and-Second Year Students  
Tennessee State University





# Peer Leaders Program

Freshman Orientation Course: University 1000

# Peer Leaders Program

- ▶ Purpose: To partner upperclass students as peer mentors with first-time freshmen through the UNIV 1000: Freshman Orientation course.
- ▶ Goals
  1. To increase student success by ensuring that 85% of first-time freshmen enrolled in UNIV 1000 attain a 2.0 GPA at the end of their first semester of college.
  2. To increase progression by ensuring that 70% of first-time freshmen enrolled in UNIV 1000 earn a minimum 12 credit hours at the end of their first semester of college.
  3. To increase the fall-to-fall retention of first-time freshmen enrolled in UNIV 1000 to 70%.
- ▶ Peer Leaders volunteered or received 1 – 3 credit hours of service-learning elective.



# Results

- 60 Peer Leaders was the (Goal of 90)
- 54% First-Time Freshmen attained a 2.0 GPA> at the end of their first semester of college
- 94% First-Time Freshmen earned 12 credits> at the end of their first semester of college
- 78% First-Time Freshmen passed UNIV 1000



# Lessons Learned

- Sustainability of the project
- Re-focus on subpopulations
- Be realistic with benchmarks and timelines
- Include indirect measures of assessment
- Capture the unintended outcomes



# Tiffany Bellafant Steward

## ➤ Background

### ➤ Education

- BA, Journalism – University of Memphis
- MS, Education – Capella University
- Currently enrolled Ed. D., Higher Education – University of Memphis

### ➤ Work Experience

- Tennessee State University
  - Director, New Student Orientation and First- & Second-Year Students, 2008 - present
- Columbia State Community College
  - Director, Student Life, 2005 - 2008
- Northern Kentucky University
  - Assistant Director, Student Life, 2002 - 2004
- University of Memphis
  - Coordinator of Greek Life, 1999 - 2002





# Brenda Cannon

MP3 Coordinator

Motlow State Community College



Ask Me About MP3  
Motlow Participant Partnership Program



Brenda Cannon  
MP3 Program Coordinator



# Program Overview

MP3 is a formal academic, cultural, and social program that led to increased student retention

- Targeted students from underrepresented populations giving them a sense of community and belonging
- Provided formal academic support
- Provided professional personal mentors
- Provided service learning opportunities
- Provided cultural enrichment
- Increased graduation and retention rates





# Data

## Enrollment and GPA Data

2013-2014	Goal	Attainment
Enrollment	60	60
GPA	2.5	2.57

2014-2015	Goal	Attainment
Enrollment	50	50
GPA	2.5	2.5

\*Student-athletes graduation rate improved from 82% to 87% during this two year period.



# Going Forward/Next Steps

MP3 received funding for two consecutive years (2013-14 at \$27,275 and 2014-15 at \$23,350). To sustain the program, Motlow State

- Continued program through subsidized funding at reduced levels
- Solicited external support
- Reduced number of participants
- Reduced services



# Program Take-Aways

Acquiring SERS Grant propelled program to higher levels by

- Allowing more academic and enrichment opportunities to students
- Giving the program a greater presence on campus and in the community
- Allowing the College to serve more students
- Providing collaboration among departments within the College

Because the SERS Grant does not fund staff positions, the workload of the coordinators increased tremendously, making it difficult to manage the program effectively. We learned that MP3 required a full-time staff person to execute the program.



# Questions & Answers