



INSTITUTE *for* EVIDENCE-BASED CHANGE



The Bright Spots Advantage: High Impact Results for Student Success & Fiscal Stability

Throughout the United States, community colleges struggle with improving student success and researchers report a new harsh reality: declines in enrollment are projected to continue through 2025 along with associated revenue reductions. **This decline is not, however, inevitable.** Student success can be greatly improved and budget losses reversed when retention and completion rates rise.

The Institute for Evidence-Based Change (IEBC) offers the Bright Spots Advantage, a just-in-time solution to improve course retention, success, persistence and completion rates.

The work to accomplish these positive outcomes is counterintuitive. Rather than trying to "fix" instruction and pedagogy, the Bright Spots Advantage focuses on five simple behaviors that increase the faculty and staff connection to students, thus increasing student motivation to succeed.

Bright Spots Advantage colleges are seeing increases in course retention and success, term-to-term persistence and completion, as well as achievement gaps being closed among traditionally underperforming populations. Keeping students in seats every term is the most effective way to maintain revenue as enrollment declines.

Results Achieved

- An early adopter college has seen in-class retention rates improve for all student demographic groups, reaching and staying at 96% over time with no equity gaps. Term-to-term persistence rates increased 15% and graduation rates increased by 110% in three years.

- A college in the early stages of its Bright Spots program is already showing an increase of 24 percentage points in term-to-term persistence rates.
- A college addressing equity gaps achieved course success rate increases for all groups after only one year of implementation.

The IEBC process for improving student outcomes and increasing revenue continues to work for all of these colleges. See more specific data [here](#).

What are Faculty and Staff Saying?

"Bright Spots not only creates great outcomes for students, but also supports faculty and staff." (Community College President)

"Students are sensing the difference. Faculty are more intentionally engaging with them. It's exciting to see we've committed to do this college-wide, not just a core set of classes, but across the college itself." (Vice President Instruction)

"The IEBC approach is strategic, meaningful and intuitive." (Vice President)

"Thank you for being the spark, for changing the culture here." (English faculty)

Minimal Time and Financial Investment

Doesn't a straightforward program that can be delivered at scale, throughout your college within a year, make sense? Our two-semester program includes only six on-site meetings with instructional faculty and student services staff to identify Bright Spots Advantage activities and create plans for development, implementation at scale, communication, monitoring and evaluation.



Why not boost student success, improve your college's performance, and confront and conquer the impact of declining enrollment with this successful Bright Spots Advantage approach?

Contact us for a consultation:

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IEBC is a nationally-recognized nonprofit organization helping education stakeholders use data and information to make informed decisions, improve practice and increase student success.

Learn more at www.iebcnow.org.