Getting Students on the Path and Keeping Them on the Path:

The Role of Student Financial Stability

National Center for Inquiry & Improvement

Maricopa Community Colleges
**Friday, October 12, 2018**

How can we <u>structurally</u> support students in addressing the broader life challenges that affect their ability to focus on and complete their educational goals?

National Center for Inquiry & Improvement

Basic Needs

- **Food**
- **Housing**
- **Transportation**
- **Childcare**
- **Healthcare**
- **Legal services**
- **Tax preparation**
- **Mental health**

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs
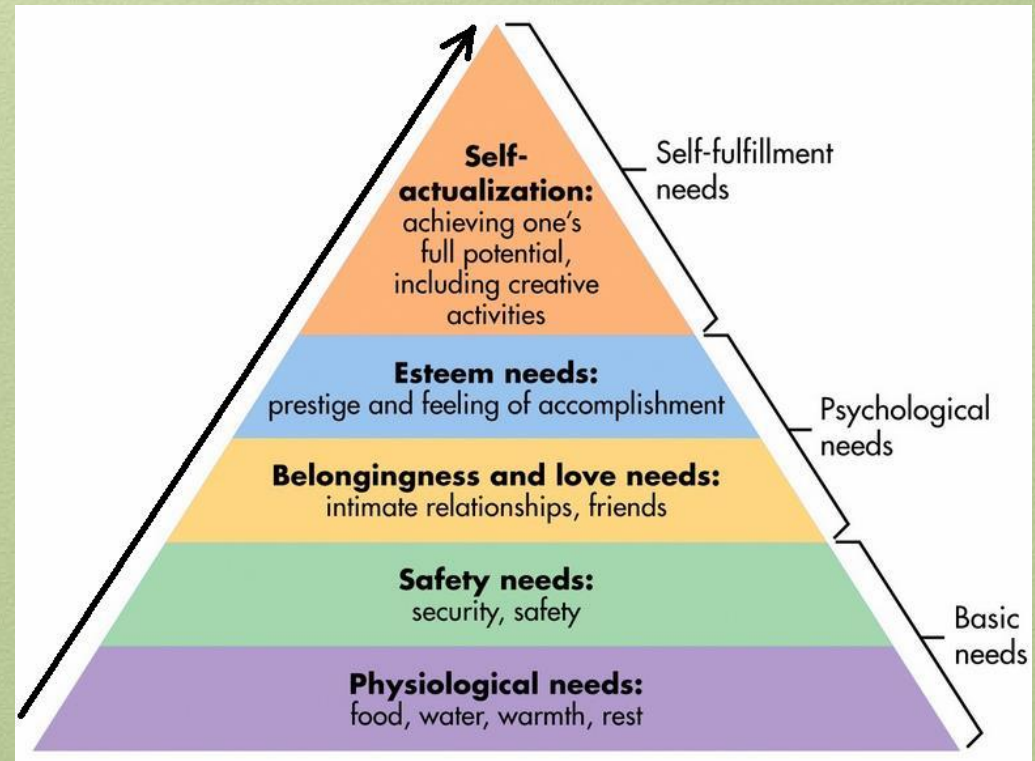
Impact is Real, and Severe

Figure 2: College graduation rates by family income and test scores

	Below-average test scores	Above-average test scores
Richest	30% Complete college	70%
Upper middle	19%	50%
Bottom middle	9%	39%
Poorest	6%	26%

Source: *Affluent Students Have an Advantage and the Gap is Widening*, December 12, 2012, New York Times based on research from Bowen, W.G., Chingos, M M., & McPherson, M.S. (2009). *Crossing the Finish Line: Completing College at America's Public Universities.* Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press

Intersecting Student Populations

- First-generation students
- Students of color
- Student parents
- Minorities
- Undocumented students
- Veterans
- Foster youth
- Students with disabilities
- Opportunity youth

Integrating GP + FS: Sample Activities

1. Clarify Students' Paths

Clearly communicate to all students the full cost of attendance as well as the suite of available supports

Integrating GP + FS: Sample Activities

2. Get Students on Path

Students participate in a screening process to determine supports and services (including public benefits) for which they may be eligible

Integrating GP + FS: Sample Activities

3. Keep Students on Path

Faculty, staff, and administrators can recognize student financial stability issues and direct students to places/people who can assist students in access the services

Integrating GP + FS: Sample Activities

4. Ensure Students are Learning

Active/applied learning activities are embedded in interactions that the student has with the institution
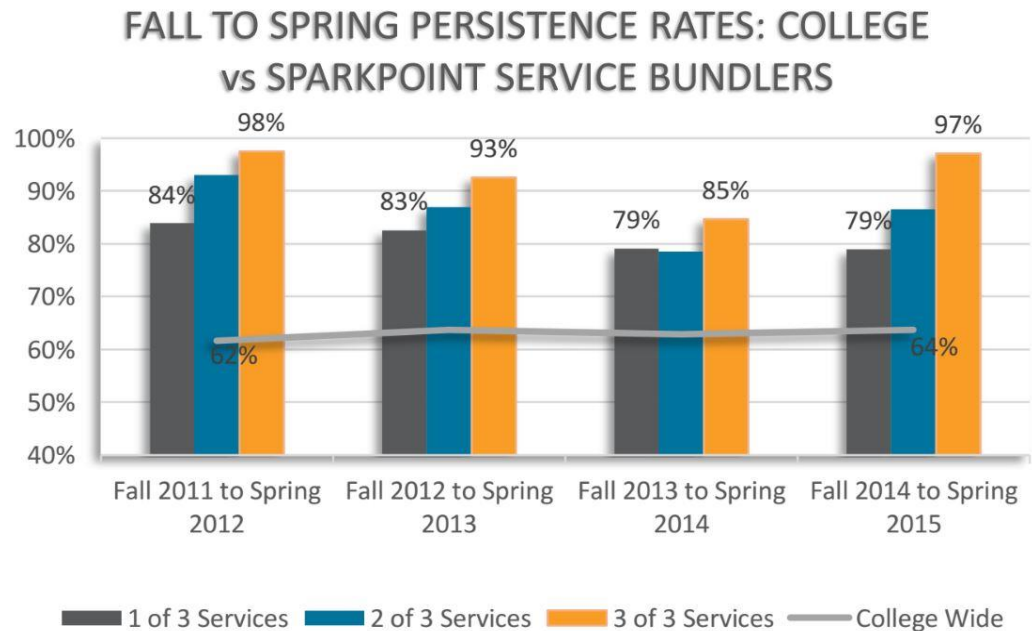
Strategies to Build Student Financial Stability

1. Understand Student Needs

Strategies to Build Student Financial Stability

2. Organize and Connect Supports

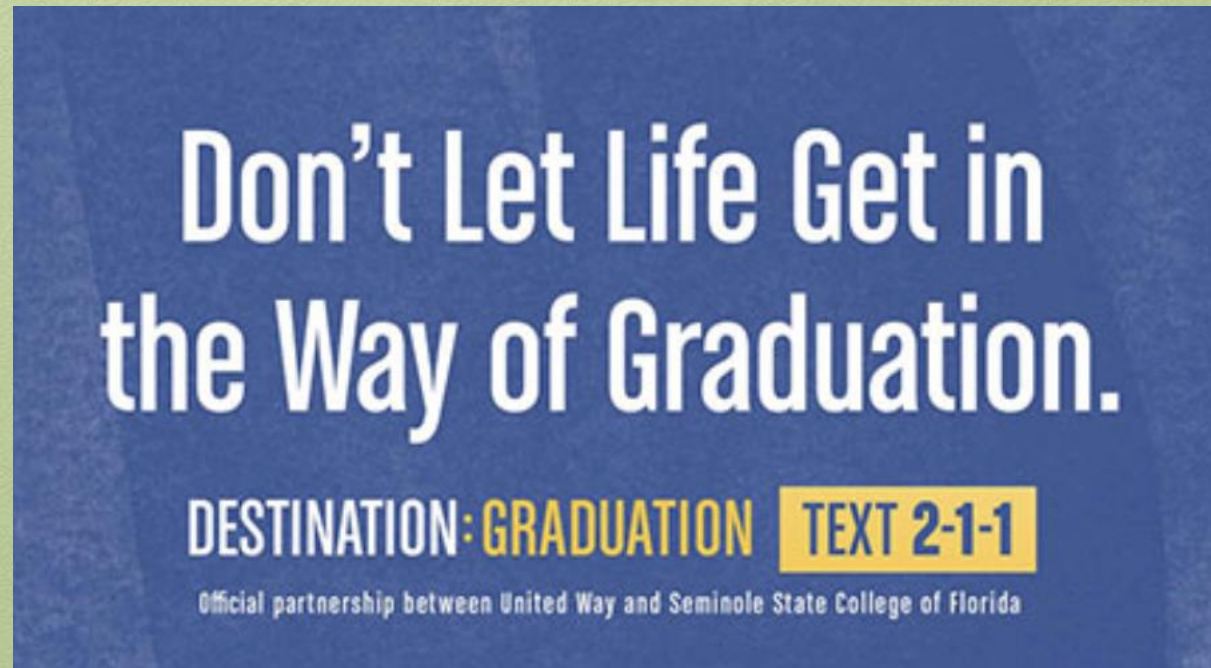FALL TO SPRING PERSISTENCE RATES: COLLEGE vs SPARKPOINT SERVICE BUNDLERS

SOURCE: SPSC & SKYLINE COLLEGE PLANNING RESEARCH & INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS 2011-2015
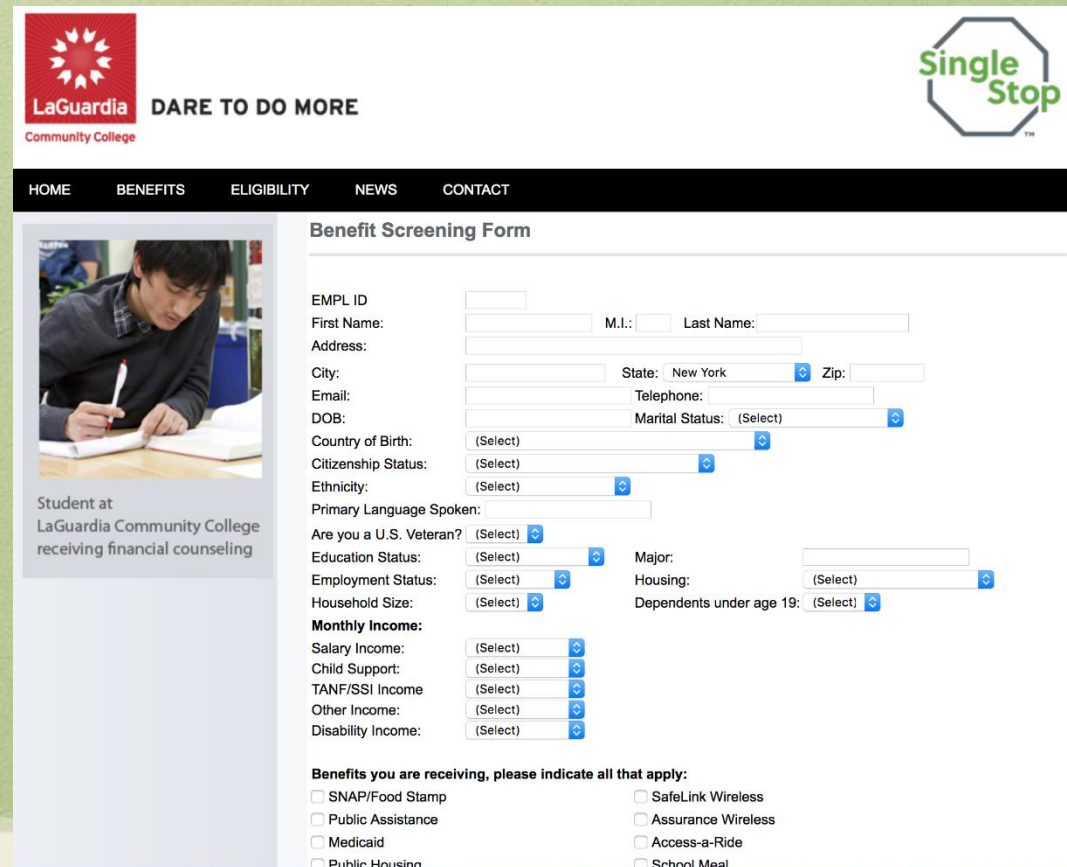
Strategies to Build Student Financial Stability

3. Connect Partners Directly to Students

Don't Let Life Get in the Way of Graduation.

DESTINATION: GRADUATION   TEXT 2-1-1

Official partnership between United Way and Seminole State College of Florida

Strategies to Build Student Financial Stability

4. Ensure Students Access Supports

Real Talk

- **How can the <u>food pantry</u> be a starting point and not an ending point in this work?**

- **How are our own <u>policies and processes</u> having unintended consequences on (particular groups of) students?**

- **How do we <u>normalize</u> / <u>destigmatize</u> basic supports?**

- **How do we align and offer relevant <u>professional development</u>?**

Resources for Strengthening Student Financial Stability

- **Beyond Financial Aid Guide (with Self-Assessment)**
  www.luminafoundation.org/bfa

- **Working Families Success Community College Expansion**
  http://achievingthedream.org/resources/initiatives/working-students-success-network

- **Skyline College's Comprehensive Diversity Framework**
  http://skylinecollege.edu/seeed/diversityframework.php

- **Benefits Access for College Completion**
  https://www.clasp.org/tags/benefits-access-college-completion-bacc

Questions?

Priyadarshini Chaplot

priya@ncii-improve.com