Objectives for Today ...

Introduce *Quest for Student Success*

Overview primary strategic initiatives

Highlight work ahead of us
Success is defined as a *partnership between the student and university*. It requires the student’s commitment to academic and personal achievement as well as MTSU’s commitment to provide student support and an outstanding academic experience.
Goals

1. MTSU will recruit students who value student success and have the potential to achieve in a student-centered culture.

2. MTSU will enhance the academic experience of students to better ensure success.

3. MTSU will facilitate student success through innovation and the use of data-informed best practices.
70/30: It’s About the People

• Recognition of MTSU’s community of professionals committed to student success
  ▪ that has already produced positive effects
  ▪ Faculty, Chairs, Deans, Program Coordinators, Directors, Advising Managers, Advisors, VPs, AVPs, professional staff, support staff, students … and the list goes on
The Urgency …

1. Freshman retention rate
2. 4-year and 6-year graduation rates
3. Most students don’t return because
4. Hours completed at time of graduation
5. Retention rates over past three decades
Primary Initiatives 2014-15

1. Advising enhancements
2. Course redesign
3. Tutoring
4. Communication plans and systems, including performance metrics
Advising Enhancements

- MTSU is building one of the best advising systems in the country, has employed 87 of the finest advisors available, and has the most sophisticated advising software available in the world.
Histogram of All Students by First-Year GPA
Middle Tennessee State University

“Murky Middle” Presents Large Opportunity

- Graduates
- Enrolled More Than 6 Yrs
- Yr2thru6Dropouts
- Yr1Dropouts

Number of Students
Thousands

First-Year GPA

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Advising Enhancements: Work To Do

• **SSC Campus**, with go-live February 2016
  ▪ Advising, tutoring, early alert
    → All with one-site notes, texting and analytics
• Dr. Hinote will lead the initiative to onboard faculty

• *Degree Works* – work underway with go-live in February 2016
Course Redesign

- By end of fall semester, 28 courses will have been redesigned!!
- Focus is on high engagement pedagogy
- Collaboration and faculty work groups
- Progression to Supplemental Instruction
- 28 Raider Learning Communities, fall 2015
Tutoring

• Led by Dr. Cornelia Wills
  o Guiding and directing students
  o Extensive offerings
    o Which courses are supported by tutoring?
Results to date …

- First-time freshmen retention +3.0%
- New transfer persistence +2.5%
- Sophomore persistence +1.6%
- **Freshmen retention is at the highest level in 15 years**
Recognitions

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Washington Post
- iPASS $225,000
- 1 of 5 finalists, APLU
- Data Impact Award
- MTSU as a case study
What can you do?

• Where it all begins …