

East Tennessee State University Digital Commons @ East Tennessee State University

ETSU Faculty Works

Faculty Works

2014

A Comparison of Student Retention and First Year Programs Among Liberal Arts Colleges in the Mountain South

Bethany Flora

East Tennessee State University, florab@etsu.edu

Jeff S. Howard

East Tennessee State University, howardjs@etsu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.etsu.edu/etsu-works>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Citation Information

Flora, Bethany; and Howard, Jeff S.. 2014. A Comparison of Student Retention and First Year Programs Among Liberal Arts Colleges in the Mountain South. *Proceedings of the Joint Meeting of the Academic Business World International Conference & International Conference on Learning and Administration in Higher Education*, Nashville, TN. 47.

This Conference Proceeding is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Works at Digital Commons @ East Tennessee State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in ETSU Faculty Works by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ East Tennessee State University. For more information, please contact digilib@etsu.edu.

A Comparison of Student Retention and First Year Programs Among Liberal Arts Colleges in the Mountain South

Copyright Statement

This document was published with permission from the publisher. It was originally published in the Proceedings of the Joint Meeting of th [Academic Business World International Conference](#) and [International Conference on Learning and Administration in Higher Education](#).

**A Comparison of Student Retention and First Year Programs
Among Liberal Arts Colleges in the Mountain South**

Bethany Flora

East Tennessee State University

Jeff S. Howard

East Tennessee State University

ABSTRACT

Institutional administrators in higher education struggle with student attrition and work to develop programs and support mechanisms to boost retention (Derby & Smith, 2004; Jacobs & Archie, 2008; Tinto, 1993). Half of all students who do not persist in college drop out by the end of the first year and do not return (Tinto, 2002). This has led to increased efforts by colleges and universities to develop, refine, and sustain first year student programs and services (McPherson, 2007). The most important factors in increasing student retention are interaction with other members of the campus community, including faculty, staff, and peers, as well as successful student integration into the social and academic fabric of the campus are (Astin, 1993; Tinto, 2002).