

Complete College America, New Hampshire, and Plymouth State

Purpose of CCA: “to work with states to significantly increase the number of Americans with quality career certificates or college degrees and to close attainment gaps for traditionally underrepresented populations.”

USNH and the Community College System of NH joined the Complete College America Alliance.

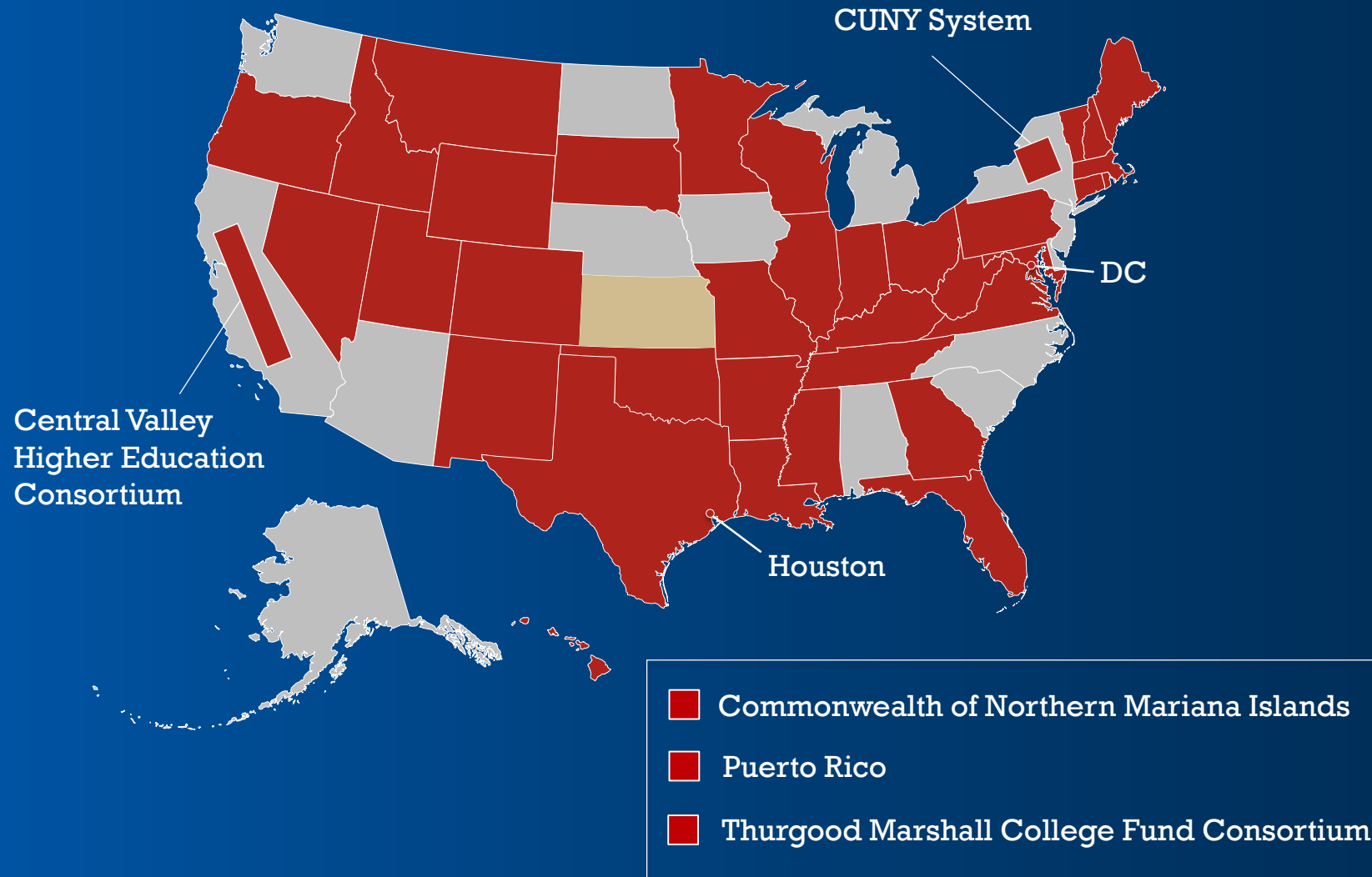
As an institution, PSU joined in because:

1. CCA programs fit in well with what we are already doing to create greater student success.
2. To strengthen our relationship with CCSNH.
3. Access to CCA people, data, and research.

COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA

The Alliance

42



PSU and Complete College America programs

2017: Plymouth State University-wide work on three CCA initiatives:

- “15 to Finish” (complete 30 credits within a year to graduate in four years)
- GPS (Guided Pathways to Success: helping students plan for four-year and post-graduate success)
- We are also part of a pilot CCA is running known as Purpose First.

PURPOSE FIRST

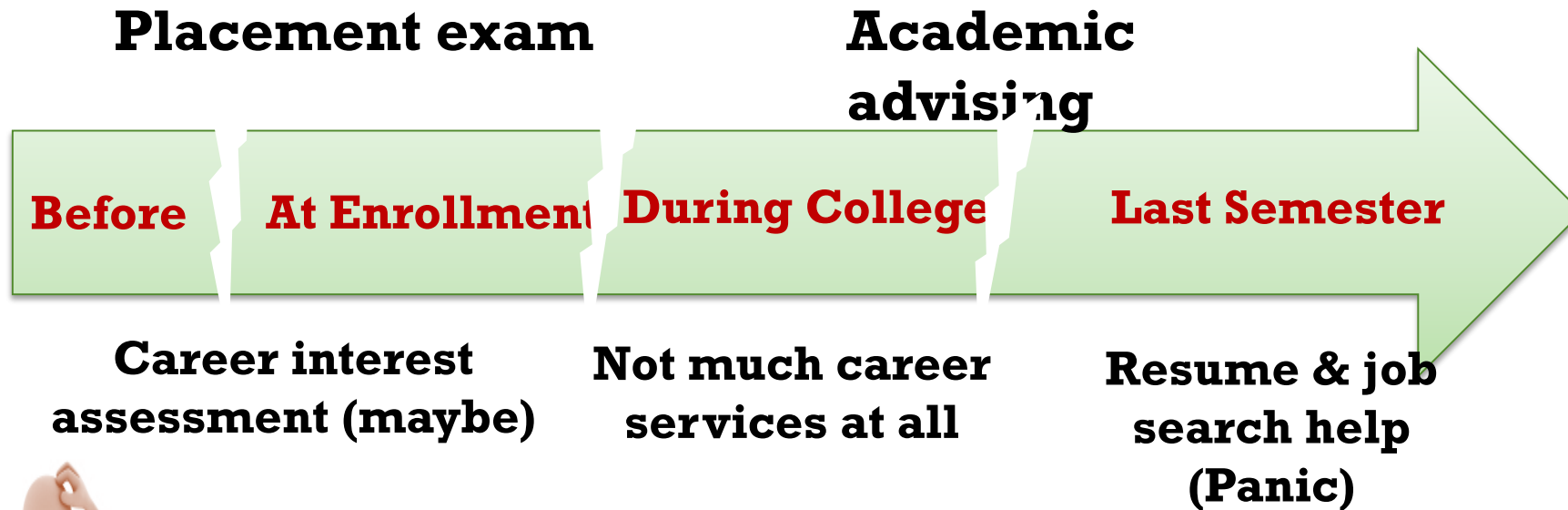
Assist students in identifying a sense of career and personal purpose prior to making their “BIG” major decision

Education is an investment. It needs to pay off.

87% of 2016-2017 incoming students at PSU said they came to college to get a good job. [Nationally: 89% (UCLA survey)]. They need to see clear paths to get to their goals.

Students who take 30 credits/year graduate at dramatically higher rates (22% at PSU), pay 20% less tuition and fees/degree, universities spend 23% less per degree.

What Most Students Experience Now:



...a disconnected set of tools and services

Purpose First

New Hampshire was chosen to work on the PF pilot, along with Tennessee, Hawaii, Virginia, and the Houston region universities.

Three guiding principles:

1. Students need a process for **identifying, developing, and refining** a sense of purpose and connecting their academic plans to that purpose.
2. Students' career planning and development needs to be perceived by **all** as **an integral part of the academic development**.
3. A Purpose First system should serve as a **tool for equity**, expanding aspiration and reducing stratification.

PSU specific: The initiative is embedded within already underway initiatives. By meshing PF with PSU goals, we will have increased data, outside reviewers, and national exposure.

Important: Success rates for those who declare a major in the first year is much higher. PSU data: 87.5% retention rate for those who declare a major in their first year (vs. 69% if they do not).

Purpose First – CORE PRINCIPLES

- A purpose-driven process must happen at the **beginning and throughout** a students' matriculation.
[PSU – Focus2]
- Academic **Advisors** and Career **Counselors** are key to student success.
- Informed major choice requires **personal and academic assessments**, as well as **career/labor market data**.

Intended Outcomes

- **Develop a Shared Best Practices Guide for Putting Purpose First that showcases how to:**
 - Integrate labor market and personal data into the pre-enrollment/enrollment process for students
 - Align Advisement, Career Planning and Enrollment practices in an integrated approach [We are focusing on the first two]
 - Utilize technology solutions to support the staff and student success [Handout on EduNav: software under consideration]
- **Results related to students staying on Path to their Purpose [Persistence and graduation]**

15 to Finish
(or 30
Credits/year)
to graduate in
four years.

Full time for
financial aid is 12
credits/ semester.
Students need to
know that they
must take and pass
30 credits/year in
order to graduate
in four years.

Additional years
are costly.

Total Cost of Each Extra Year

For Full-Time Students (12-17 credits/semester)

\$25,782

PSU in-state cost of
attendance






Out-of-state: + \$8,260

\$45,000

in lost wages/opportunity costs

\$70,782

GPS: Essential Components

-  1. Purpose First: Informed Choice
-  2. Curriculum Maps (Academic Maps)
-  3. Clusters (Meta-Majors)
-  4. Themed Gen Ed and Guaranteed Milestone Courses (Default Pathways and Critical Path Courses)
-  5. Proactive Advising

PROACTIVE ADVISING

- Goal: No longer wait for students to come to us!
- Transition from Schedulers to “True” advising
- Student Success Coaches & Faculty Advisors
- Advisor Training & Retreats
- Solution-oriented Meetings
- Common, shared outcomes for advising