



## The Fact Sheet

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### The Great College Workshop: Where to Begin???

We began by sharing our successes, and eventually by working through our challenges, we created a list of seven areas that thematically captured our thoughts and concerns:

1. Early identification of student problems
2. Accommodation vs. effectiveness
3. Student connections
4. Creative scheduling
5. Student skills/information development
6. Internal customer service
7. College resources must follow the mission

By a democratic process, we narrowed the list to four: Early identification, Student connections, Student skills/information development, and resources must follow the mission. These four areas formed the basis for small group discussions. Workshop participants gathered with each other to brainstorm ideas and compile a list of recommendations for addressing each area. These recommendations will become part of the agenda for all of us working with Achieving the Dream and the creation of our Implementation Grant in March.

Here's a short sample of the recommendations: Include in the Early Alert System a method for contacting students who fail their first exam in a class; enforce the pre- and co-requisite

requirements; encourage/facilitate the creation of cohort groups and learning communities (such as Art Appreciation, A & P I, and Composition); sponsor a Student Government Association; make our Freshman Experience class a three-credit-hour class; stagger registration by lottery or alphabetically; teach financial planning; pay students and instructors to be mentors, beginning with probationary students. This is just an excerpt from the creative thinking of the workshop participants.

The goal for the workshop was to consider the nature of the Great College, so on the final day, we had a final exam. In groups of four or five, we assisted our colleagues in better understanding the nature of the Great College. Here is what we said:

- The Great College is mindful of the power of simplicity: simplicity of focus, communication, and ideas.
- The Great College is
  - #1 People: passionate about changing lives
  - #2 Opportunities: students and staff being flexible, using strengths
  - #3 Goals: recognizing students' needs, helping students identify needs and working toward goals
  - #4 Create "Environments": promotes teamwork, "synergy", promotes learning for all
- The Great Community College has a mission that is understandable and will work toward meeting the mission. The Great Community College is a nurturing environment that introduces and explains concepts/ways of thinking and demonstrates relevance of instruction. The Great Community College works to provide universal access.
- Finally, the Great College has the effect of the Big Bang!! See the attached documents for more detail.