In the paper *Graduation Rate Watch: Making Minority Student Success a Priority*, Florida State University is highlighted as having an ‘unusually comprehensive program’ to help underrepresented minority students succeed. At the October 8, 2010 CSU Workshop entitled *Reducing Achievement Gaps*, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Lawrence C. Abele at FSU shared knowledge and experience with representatives from the California State University.

Dr. Abele’s presentation, *Working the Issue of Persistence and Graduation*, included:

- Three critical elements of a Retention / Graduation Program (Slide # 13)
- Factors affecting student retention (slide # 14)
- Composition of retention teams (slides # 15 – 16) [http://undergrad.fsu.edu/Retention/](http://undergrad.fsu.edu/Retention/)
- FYR: Living Learning Communities (slide # 22) [http://livinglearning.fsu.edu/](http://livinglearning.fsu.edu/)
- FYR: Freshmen Interest Groups (slide # 22) [http://undergrad.fsu.edu/FIG/about.html](http://undergrad.fsu.edu/FIG/about.html)
- FYR: The Value of Living on Campus (slide # 39)
- Tracking Advising Activity / Typical Action Steps (slides # 41 - 44) [http://advisingfirst.fsu.edu/index.html](http://advisingfirst.fsu.edu/index.html)
- Academic Program Guide (slides # 45 - 47) [http://www.academic-guide.fsu.edu/](http://www.academic-guide.fsu.edu/)
- Analysis of high enrollment, low success courses (slide # 48)
- Super Seniors (slide # 55)
- ACE: Academic Center for Excellence (slide # 56) [http://ace.fsu.edu/](http://ace.fsu.edu/)
- Success Coaching (slides # 58 – 60) [http://advisingfirst.fsu.edu/SuccessCoaching/](http://advisingfirst.fsu.edu/SuccessCoaching/)
- CARE – Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (Slides # 61 – 65) [http://care.fsu.edu/](http://care.fsu.edu/)
- Degree in Three Program [http://www.degreein3.fsu.edu/](http://www.degreein3.fsu.edu/)
- Special programs:
  - [http://honors.fsu.edu/](http://honors.fsu.edu/)
  - [http://www.communitycollege.fsu.edu/](http://www.communitycollege.fsu.edu/)
  - [http://undergrad.fsu.edu/trans.html](http://undergrad.fsu.edu/trans.html)
  - [http://undergradresearch.fsu.edu/](http://undergradresearch.fsu.edu/)
- Special publications:
  - [http://undergrad.fsu.edu/iaa.pdf](http://undergrad.fsu.edu/iaa.pdf)
  - [http://global.fsu.edu/](http://global.fsu.edu/)
Selected slides ...

Three Critical Elements of a Retention/Graduation Program

1. An individual, by status or personality, must drive the process
2. A process based on detailed data must be established and maintained for at least five years
3. There must be a team of individuals from across campus committed to student success who meet weekly to assess progress

Low Cost Effective Strategies

- Academic Mapping for each Degree
- Moving Advisors to where the students are
- Email contacts
- W.E.B. Du Bois Honor Society
- Oscar Arias Honor Society
- Freshmen Interest Groups (FIGS)
- Learning Communities
- Encourage strong attendance policies in courses with high percentages of D and F grades

Higher Cost Effective Strategies

- Residence Halls with Programming
- Adding Advisors
- Adding Tutors in selected courses
  - Drop in tutoring
  - Tutoring by appointment
- Add a “Successful Learning Strategy” course
- Add Success Coaches