Tracking and Reporting on Military Student Outcomes: Lessons Learned & Initial Data

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AGENDA

• Introductions
• Panel Questions
• Audience Q & A
WHO WE ARE

Walden University

- Accredited by HLC
- Private, For-Profit Institution
- Primarily Online
- Undergrad & Grad Programs in:
  - Education
  - Social & Behavioral Sciences
  - Health Sciences & Nursing
  - Management & Technology

Student Demographics

- May 2017 Enrollment = 50,851
- 14% Undergraduate
- 86% Graduate
- 74% Female
- 52% Minority
- Average Age = 40 years

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- Grand Forks, North Dakota
- City population – 55,000 (ND 3rd largest city)
- Grand Forks AFB (1954)
  - Home to 1,600 active duty military personnel

Nearly 15,000 students
More than 11,300 undergrads

200+ fields of study

Undergraduate
Graduate
Law
Medicine

Students from
50 states & 80 countries
Question #1

How do you track military students on your campus?
Answer #1

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• Military Services Office
• VA Benefit Records
• Bursar tuition assistance/reduction
• Self-report via..
  ▫ Annual surveys
  ▫ Online Application

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How do you define veteran/military?
• Created student groups and are entered in PS by staff in Veteran Services and the Business Office.
  ▫ Military= (NDMIL, VAD)
  ▫ Veterans= (V30, V31, V33,)
  ▫ Guard/Reserve= (VRTC, VAG, V166, V167)
  ▫ Spouse= (V33S)
  ▫ Dependent=(V35, V33C, VETD)
Question #2

What successes and challenges have you experienced when attempting to track this student group?
Answer #2

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• Successes:
  ▫ Established regular data collection process
  ▫ Incorporated into internal reporting
    • Ex. enrollment, ret / grad rates
  ▫ Built solid relationship with Military Services

• Challenges:
  ▫ Unable to track spouse & dependent separately
  ▫ Unable to separate active, guard reserve and veteran statuses
  ▫ Not all military student tracked

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• Multiple student group codes - established a hierarchy for headcount reporting
• Retention/Graduation Rates – most come in as new transfers, stop-in/stop-out, part-time/full-time
Question #4

What type of data does your institution provide, internally and externally, regarding military student outcomes?
Answer #3

Walden University
- Internal (coming soon)
  - Enrollment
    - Demographics (ex. gender, ethnicity)
    - Programs/degrees
  - Retention & Graduation Rates
  - Alumni
    - Number graduated
    - Median years to completion
- External
  - Military Friendly Schools (ex. transfer rate, enrollment, etc.)
  - IPEDS (ex. Post-9/11 GI Bill funds paid to institution & number of recipients)
  - VA Remote Compliance Survey (85/15 rule)

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- 85/15 statement of Assurance
  - # in programs
- Strategic Plan Goal
  - online vs on-campus
- External Surveys
  - Retention & graduation rate
  - Median years to completion
- Veteran Profile
- Departmental requests
Question #4

What surprising things have you learned about military students from the tracking and/or reporting process?
Answer #4

Walden University
• Movement of students between military categories
  ▫ Ex. reservist --&gt; active duty --&gt; veteran --&gt; active duty
• Current inability to separate categories
  ▫ Ex. spouse vs. dependent vs veteran vs. Active duty
  ▫ Working on collecting better data
• Better understanding of federal and institutional support for military students
• Increased awareness of external focus on military student outcomes
  ▫ i.e. "eyes and ears" on what's coming for reporting

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• Coding took away the struggle of identifying students
• Retention/graduation rates are challenging as the cohorts are unique
• More and more information is being requested
Questions?