Benchmarking Student Success Initiatives

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Project Overview

- Identify what initiatives contributed to a 6 year graduation rate increase at two specific Universities.

- Both Universities are 4 year, large, majority undergraduate, R1 private institutions located in the Northeast.

- Interviewed various administrators multiple times to gain a comprehensive perspective of contributing factors.
Student Success Initiatives – What We Learned

- **Streamlined Academic Planning & Culture**
  - Streamline Change of Major Process, Degree Planning Tool, Major Exploration Course Options, elitist culture shift, etc.

- **Multilayered Student Outreach**
  - Communication from campus and college leadership, non-reg outreach, completion outreach, GPA drop outreach, exit interviews, transcript request outreach.

- **Increased Data Sharing & Use in Colleges**
  - Analysis and distribution of student success data to colleges at multiple levels, identification of retention trends

- **Amplified Financial Commitment to Students**
  - Emergency loan funds, food insecurity funds, campus upgrades for community building, efforts to decrease student need gap.

- **Renewed Focus & Resources Allocated to Improve the Student Experience**
  - Focus on sense of belonging, larger spaces for affinity groups and special populations, opportunities for students to speak with leadership, transparency on campus issues.
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