Supporting Students Through Flexible Financial Aid Strategies

By the end of the day, we will have:

- A shared understanding of how emergency grants, completion grants, debt forgiveness and other flexible financial aid strategies can increase retention and completion for low-income students, first-generation students and students of color;
- Individually identified at least one strategy or idea that can be implemented on our own campuses or within our own organizations to strengthen existing efforts or launch new ones;
- Familiarity with statewide scholarship and financial aid tools and resources; and
- Connected with colleagues to further the SSLI goal of creating a learning network of higher education professionals committed to eliminating equity gaps in degree completion.

AGENDA

9:30 - 10:00  Informal Coffee and Conversation

10:00 -10:10  Welcome to the Student Success Learning Institute

Alan Byrd, Jr., Co-Chair, St. Louis Graduates, and Vice Provost of Enrollment Management, University of Missouri-St. Louis

10:10 -10:20  Welcome from University of Missouri

Kim Humphrey, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, University of Missouri-Columbia

10:20 -11:00  Keynote Address and Q&A:
Increasing Re-enrollment and Graduation Rates through Debt Forgiveness: The Warrior Way Back Model

Introduction: Alan Byrd, Jr., Co-Chair, St. Louis Graduates, and Vice Provost of Enrollment Management, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Keynote Speaker:
Dawn Medley, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, Wayne State University

11:00 - 11:30 Response Panel: Increasing Graduation Rates for Underrepresented Students through Completion Grants and Debt Forgiveness

Moderator: Alan Byrd, Jr., Co-Chair, St. Louis Graduates, and Vice Provost of Enrollment Management, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Panelists: Melissa Findley, Executive Director, Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation
Karen Goos, Interim Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, University of Central Missouri
Dena Norris, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Financial Services, Metropolitan Community College

11:30-12:00 Plenary Panel: How Emergency Grants are Aiding Student Retention

Moderator: Alan Byrd, Jr., Co-Chair, St. Louis Graduates, and Vice Provost of Enrollment Management, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Panelists: Matthew Kearney, Director of Financial Aid, Southeast Missouri State University
Charles (Buddy) Mayfield, Director of Financial Aid, Northwest Missouri State University

12:00-12:30 Lunch and Team Time Discussion

12:30- 1:15 Full Tuition Programs for Pell Students: What We’ve Learned from the Missouri Land Grant

Lynn Stichnote, Director of Financial Aid, University of Missouri-Columbia
Justin Wilson, Assistant Director of Admissions, Fontbonne University
Charles (Buddy) Mayfield, Director of Financial Aid, Northwest Missouri State University
1:15 - 1:55  Tools and Resources to Connect Students to Scholarships and Interest-Free Loans

Leroy Wade, Assistant Commissioner, Missouri Department of Higher Education
Melissa Findley, Executive Director, Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation
Ellen Vietor, Manager, Scholarship Central

1:55-2:00  Closing Remarks: How Today Will Impact My Work

Please complete the online evaluation sent via e-mail to each participant!

The Student Success Learning Institute is made possible thanks to support from Lumina Foundation and Kresge Foundation through the St. Louis Talent Hub and the Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation.

Thank you to the University of Missouri-Columbia for hosting this Learning Institute.