Today’s American College Student:
What Makes Them So Different From When I Was in College?

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Overview:
The American College Student

• Who are our students?
  – Today’s Students
  – Issues & Trends

• Applications to the classroom

“... it is clear that the manner in which students are motivated to engage in higher education has been changing and will continue to change rapidly.” (Crone & McKay, 2007)
DePaul Student Profile

• Undergraduate Enrollment: 16,384 (12,381 under the age of 24)
• Fulltime: 82%
• Freshmen: 2,458 students
• Transfers: 1,530 students
• Students of Color: 35% (overall)
• 75% on financial aid
• Pell Grant Recipients: 35%
DePaul First Year Student Profile

First Year Students:
• 32% students of color
• 36% first generation students
• 12% Chicago Public Schools

Location:
• 45% Suburban Chicago
• 33% Out-of-State
• 19% City of Chicago
The World is Demanding More . . .

• Disruptive global and social change
• An economy dependent on knowledge & innovation
• The “shelf-life” of industries
• Today’s students will have 10-14 jobs by the time they are 38
• Employers need “360 degree” employees
New Students

• Expectations of Higher Education: A Career Orientation

• Financial Pressures
  – Having to work
  – Taking out loans
  – Majors and Courses
Academics: Academic Preparation

Contributing factors to success in college:

- Pre-college preparation and achievement
- Family Income
- Parent’s Education
- Study Habits
Academics: Academic Preparation

High School Experiences

• 47% study only 3 hours a week
• 2/3 of these students receive mostly A’s & B’s
• 1/5 of the college prep students took a math course after junior year
• 7/10 high school seniors wrote at least 3 or more papers of 5+ pages
• Only about 50% put a great deal of effort into their school work
Academics

How they learn:
- Need for relevance
- Connections
- Clear explanations of the material being covered
- Prompt feedback
- Respecting students as adults
Health & Wellness: Emotional Health

Emotional Health

• Students perceived emotional health at record low (CIRP Study)
  – Male students “above average” emotional health reported at 51.9%
  – Women students “above average” emotional health reported at 45.9%
Health & Wellness: Emotional Health

- Students expectation of seeking personal counseling during college at all time high: 9.7% (CIRP)
- 1,057 students used University Counseling Services (UCS) at DePaul in 2010
- Panic attacks have overtaken depression as most reported problem (UCS)
Health & Wellness: Drugs & Alcohol

So far this year at DePaul:

- 40 hospital transports for alcohol poisoning
- 25 arrests for marijuana (33 incidents)
- 1 arrest for cocaine possession
- 8 mental health hospitalizations
- 14 removals from the residence halls
Health & Wellness: Sex

- Sexually active in the last 30 days:
  - 59% of DePaul
  - 46.5% NCHA national average

- 4 or more sexual partners in the last year:
  - 9.3% DePaul
  - 7.8% NCHA national average

- “Hooking Up” Culture
Needing to Work

- The rising cost of higher education
- Student debt
- 35% of seniors work 20+ hours a week in off-campus jobs (10% of freshmen)
Values

- Social Responsibility
- Environment & Sustainability
- Activism
- Community Service
- Diversity
- Civic Engagement
What issues do they bring?

Trends
- Work & school
- Family income not keeping pace with college costs
- Diversity
- Technology
- Mental illness
- Alcohol abuse
- Academic disengagement
- Crime & violence on campus
- Academic Preparation
- Learning disabilities
- Parental involvement
- The “Millennials”