USD Retention Plan and Initiatives
Preceptor Training – August 27, 2010

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Retention & Student Success

• Why is retention (i.e., student persistence) important to us?
  – Commitment made by incoming students
  – Commitment made by the university
  – Indirect measure of quality of education and experience
  – External evaluations (e.g., rankings)
Retention & Student Success

• What is our current freshman-to-sophomore year retention rate (percent of freshmen who return for sophomore year)? 85%

• What is our goal (by 2012)? 90% or above
How do we compare?
Freshman Retention Rates (3-year average) for Comparison Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USC</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villanova</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Clara</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fordham</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepperdine</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle U.</td>
<td>88%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loyola Marymount</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>U. of Dayton</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USF</td>
<td>83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seton Hall</td>
<td>83%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Retention & Student Success

• What student populations persist at lower rates (3-year average freshman retention rates)?
  – Out-of-state students (81.2%)
  – Black (80.5%)
  – American Indian (81.3%)
  – First Generation (83.7%)
Retention & Student Success

• What student populations persist at higher rates (3-year average freshman retention rates)?
  – Commuter students (88.4%)
  – Students from California (88.2%)
  – Honors Program (87.2%)
Retention & Student Success

• What are some of the reasons students identify for leaving USD?
  – Financial Reasons (#1, 2, and 3 on withdrawing student survey)
  – Failure to make connections early
    • Lack sense of belonging (from MAP-Works survey)
  – Student body composition and culture
    • Uncomfortable with overall student culture
    • Students too cliquey
    • Not enough economic diversity
Retention & Student Success

• What keeps students here?
  – Connection to peers with common interests/similarities
  – Connection with individual who shows personal interest in student (esp. faculty)
  – Form sense of community with smaller network of people at USD
  – Meeting other students who share similar challenges and help normalize experience
Ongoing Initiatives

- Preceptorial Program (Preceptorial course, faculty advisor, Preceptorial Assistant)
- Residential Life (FYE)
- Torero Days Orientation
- Center for Student Success
- College of Arts & Sciences Advising
- FRESH@USD Workshops
- TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) Program & New “USD Student Support Services (SSS)” program
New Initiatives

- MAP-Works: Making Achievement Possible
- Out-of-State Student Network
- First Connection program
- SYE Abroad for Class of 2014!
- Residential Living Learning Communities (LLCs)
- Student Services review project
- Reorganization of summer advising
New Initiatives

• *Out-of-State Student Network*
  – Connect incoming out-of-state freshmen with other new students and successful continuing students from same region
  – Six Regions: Northeast, South, Midwest, Southwest, Northwest, Pacific/International
  – Annual Out-of-State Student Dinner: Wednesday, September 8 @ 7PM in UC Forums
  – Ongoing activities organized by student leaders throughout semester
New Initiatives

• *First Connection Program*
  – Connect incoming freshman with other new students who share something in common
  – Connection before students arrive on campus
  – First meeting during Torero Days (Monday, Aug. 30th @3:00 PM)
  – Ongoing opportunities throughout semester
  – 4 Pre-Set Groups: Honors Program, Student-athletes, SSS, and USD SSS (formerly Lead@USD)
  – 7 Elective Themes: Spirituality, Recreation, International Opportunities, Visual & Performing Arts, Justice, Exploration/Adventure/Sustainability, Ties that Unite
New Initiatives

- **SYE Abroad**
  - Special program for Class of 2014 Only!
  - Second freshman class to have this opportunity
  - Program dates: January 2-22, 2012
  - Locations: Barcelona, Florence, Hong Kong, or London
  - Application deadline: December 1, 2010