

Strategies to Engage and Improve the Retention of Underrepresented Students

by

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Overview

1. North Park University
 - History
 - Enrollment
 - Demographic Information

2. Academic Support Interventions
 - Identifying Students
 - Steps to Intervention and Prevention
 - Outcomes and Success Stories

3. Social Engagement Activities
 - Christian
 - Urban
 - Multicultural

4. Best Practice Interactive Exercise



North Park University

1. History

- Founded in 1891
- Moved to Chicago in 1894
- Became a Junior College in 1919
- Four-Year College and Theological Seminary in 1926
- Four-Year University in 1997

2. Enrollment

- 3,200 students from 40 states and 33 countries
 - 1851 Undergraduate Students
 - 738 Graduate Students
 - 274 Seminary Students
 - 347 Continuing Studies Students

North Park University

3. Demographic Information

Students (29% are underrepresented and International students)

1.	4%	International
2.	8%	African American
3.	1%	Native American
4.	6%	Asian or Pacific Islander
5.	10%	Latino / Hispanic
6.	62%	White
7.	10%	Multi-racial / Unknown

Employees

1. 16% of the faculty are persons of color
2. 24% of the Leadership Team – VPs and Deans are persons of color
3. 41% of the Leadership Team are women

Academic Support Initiatives

1. Identifying Students
2. Steps to Intervention and Prevention
3. Outcomes and Success Stories



Social Engagement Activities

1. Christian

- Chapel
- College Life
- Small Groups
- Prayer



Social Engagement Activities

2. Urban

- Community Outreach
 - ✓ Urban Outreach Partnerships
 - ✓ One Time Events
- Community Connect
 - ✓ Barbershop & Beauty shop
 - ✓ Athletic Chaplains



Social Engagement Activities

3. Multicultural

- Sankofa
- Global Partnerships



Social Engagement Activities

Feedback from Students of Color

- Variety of chapel speakers
- Reaching out/constant/events
- Intentionality
- Feel invited/relational connection
- Safe and welcoming place
- Warm inviting people

Best Practice Interaction Exercise

1. What is your role with retention?
2. Describe your underrepresented student population
3. Share best practices in the retention of students

Please take notes in each of your small groups and turn them in at the end of the workshop. Thank you on behalf of
North Park University