

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

**Committee:** Academic and Student Affairs

**Date of Meeting:** May 15, 2012

**Agenda Item:** Academic and Student Affairs Committee Goal- Student Success

Proposed  
Policy Change

Approvals  
Required by  
Policy

Other  
Approvals

Monitoring

Information

**Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:**

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee has stated an intention to explore, discuss and advocate for research-based best practices in promoting student success. This presentation will highlight one of the best practices most often cited in the literature, First Year Experience (FYE) programs.

**Scheduled Presenter(s):**

Nicole Dose- Minnesota State University, Mankato

Kathy Matel- Century College

Ron Anderson- Century College

**Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:**

First Year Experience programs have been demonstrated to be an effective strategy to promote the retention and academic success of students who are making the transition from high school to college study. Although most FYE programs share many characteristics in common, local conditions often lead to modifications in the way these programs are structured and delivered. This will be illustrated in the presentations from a state university and a community and technical college.

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<b>INFORMATION ITEM</b>
<b>ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE GOAL- STUDENT SUCCESS</b>

**BACKGROUND**

First-Year Experience programs help students in making the transition to college, and especially in helping new students develop an engagement with the college. FYE courses help students to acquire effective study skills, time management skills, and other skills important to being a successful student. The effectiveness of these extended orientation programs has been amply demonstrated. A number of studies have found that first-year students who participated in a FYE program graduated at a higher rate than a matched group of students who did not. It has also been found that FYE participants who were admitted to postsecondary institutions with low ACT Assessment scores and high school GPA had higher graduation rates than a group of matched nonparticipants. Research conducted at the University of South Carolina, home of the Center for the First Year Experience, has shown many positive effects of First Year Experience programs, including a finding that high-risk students may benefit more from participation in these programs than other students.