

AQIP Project Commitment Declaration

Institution: Purdue University Calumet

Planned project completion date:

Target project completion date: March 24, 2006

Actual project completion date:

A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:

Improve Student Success Measured by Increasing the Graduation Rate.

B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:

The goal of all student success programs is to empower students to achieve their academic, personal, and career goals. The Success Network of programs and activities will include:

- Baseline data gathering
- Developing learning objectives and outcomes
- Providing supplemental instruction to targeted classes
- Offering discipline-based freshmen experience courses
- Employing students on campus and in research projects
- Providing intensified freshmen advising
- Creating honors and scholars programs
- Developing information literacy

C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:

Primary Category: Helping Students Learn

D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:

Criterion #1, Helping Student Learn, is an institution's primary purpose and is the primary criterion for this project. Providing programs and activities supporting student success is vital to Purdue University Calumet's mission. In the University's strategic plan, the first and main goal is to expand access to student learning and to improve the level of student success.

E. List the organizational areas - institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units -- most affected by or involved in this Action Project:

Academic departments and student services departments.

F. Name and describe briefly the key organizational process(es) that you expect this Action Project to change or improve:

Academic advising; refining learning objectives; developing supplemental instruction and developing freshmen year courses.

G. Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion):

Improving the level of student success is the number one goal of Purdue University Calumet's Strategic Plan. The Purdue University Board of Trustees has approved the Strategic Plan, and a resource plan to support its implementation has been developed. A committee has been assigned to develop the Student Success Network.

H. Describe how you plan to monitor how successfully your efforts on this Action Project are progressing:

- Supplemental instruction (gpa and semester-to-semester persistence)
- Freshmen year courses (gpa and semester-to-semester persistence)
- Number of programs with learning outcomes identified

I. Describe the overall "outcome" measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals:

- Freshmen retention rate will increase from 62 to 72%, and
- Six-year graduation rate will increase from 22 to 32%.

J. Other information (e.g., publicity, sponsor or champion, etc.):

- The plan for the Student Success Network will be completed.
- Budget reallocation will be completed to support this action project.
- Pilot projects will be started.
- Fall to fall retention rates for students in pilot projects will increase.
- Pilot programs will be expanded.
- Freshmen (fall to fall) retention rates will increase from 62% to 64%.

Last Action Project Update:

A. Describe the past year's accomplishments and the current status of this Action Project.

This action project was submitted to AQIP in June, 2002. The action project is aligned with Purdue University Calumet's strategic initiative to create a Student Success Network. A cross-functional committee of faculty and staff worked from spring 2002 to late summer 2002 to create a blueprint for an intentionally dynamic and student-centered student success network. Within the last two weeks, the Senior Leadership Team, consisting of vice chancellor and the chancellor of Purdue University Calumet, accepted these recommendations. The Student Success Network focuses on expanding, organizing, evaluating and funding key retention activities within the university.

B. Describe how the institution involved people in work on this Action Project.

A cross-functional committee composed of faculty, staff, and a student representative met frequently, reviewed benchmark data on retention activities, and heard a summary of discussions from the 2001 Strategic Planning effort. In addition, the committee benchmarked with other institutions to create this blueprint for the Student Success Network.

C. Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project.

The Student Success Network calls for new administrative positions. Plans are being formed to form budget requests.

D. Describe any "effective practice(s)" that resulted from your work on this Action Project.

One learning gained from this committee's work is that organizational structures can be created without the use of new space. The initial thinking of above the committee and that of the Strategic Planning Task Force was that a new Student Success Center should be created, a new space for student interaction. The above committee determined that activities such as supplemental instruction, first year experience courses in the discipline, and undergraduate research activities would by their nature be decentralized. However, the coordination and evaluation of these activities could be centralized through a Student Success Network.

E. What challenges, if any, are you still facing in regards to this Action Project?

Purdue University Calumet has experienced budget cut backs from the State of Indiana. However, the Strategic Plan has a central theme of supporting student success, with the Student Success Network as the number one priority of the university's Strategic Plan.

F. If you would like to discuss the possibility of AQIP providing you help to stimulate progress on this action project, explain your need(s) here and tell us who to contact and when?