**QEP Seed Topics**

*Topics from AEC*

1. Considering ACC's most successful students, what traits or behaviors are most critically related to success?

**1. College Ready: 18% of votes**
   a. Basic skills
   b. Proper academic background
   c. Prepare
   d. Academic preparation

**2. Active Learners: 15% of votes**
   a. Participate in class
   b. Participation
   c. Put effort into studying and class preparation
   d. Engaged

**3. Proactive Attitude: 15% of votes**
   a. Initiative
   b. Proactive
   c. Emotional intelligence
   d. Maturity
   e. Interest in the subject
   f. Determination
   g. Self-discipline
   h. Self-motivation
   i. Self-starters
   j. Ambitious
   k. Motivation (3 times)

**4. Attendance: 12% of votes**
   a. Attend classes (2 times)
   b. Use labs
   c. Attendance

**5. Goal oriented: 11% of votes**
   a. Understand the value and importance of education
   b. Purpose
   c. Focused on end results
   d. Set of goals
   e. They have goals (know what they want to do)

**6. Time Management: 11% of votes**
   a. Able to multi-task
   b. Are organized
   c. Don't over-commit, be realistic
   d. Time
   e. Balances – work, home, and school

**7. College Support: 6% of votes**
   a. Uses student support services (advising, financial aid, etc....)
   b. Knows about resources
   c. Asks for help
   d. Actively seek information
   e. Utilizes support services

**8. College Social Network: 5% of votes**
   a. Student population diversity
   b. Relationships
   c. Participate in extra-curricular activities
   d. Generates positive relationships
   e. Joins activities
   f. Works with peers (support group)
   g. Form connections with other students

**9. Study Skills: 5% of votes**
   a. Completes assignments
   b. Do their work well
   c. Effective study skills
   d. Good study skills

**10. Faculty Interaction: 2% of votes**
   a. Means faculty support ends
   b. Ask for help
   c. Attend office hours
   d. Form relationships with faculty

**11. Personal Support: 0% of votes**
   a. Strong support system
   b. Support system

2. What weaknesses prevent ACC students from achieving academic success?

1. **Institutional Issues: 17% of votes**
   a. Lack of pre-req checks
   b. Lectures
   c. Poor outreach for student services
   d. Parking (2 times)
   e. Inadequate orientation
   f. Multiple hurdles to get an answer
   g. Inconsistent practices between campuses
   h. Students with problems not indentified and directed to proper assistance
   i. Lack of sense of student community
   j. Publishers constantly changing books
   k. ACC website (difficult to navigate)
   l. Accessibility to class (location/scheduling)
   m. Poor advising by faculty/staff (3 times)
   n. Non-supportive faculty
   o. Recruiting creates unrealistic expectations
   p. Faculty salaries prevent excellence in staffing
   q. Different answers from different people
   r. Faculty overloaded – not enough time
   s. Mandatory study skills classes
   t. Price of books
   u. Lack of communication about changes
   v. Registration and payment issues
   w. Outreach to outlying communities

2. **Unrealistic Expectations: 14% of votes**
   a. Unrealistic idea of time it takes to be successful
   b. Not adequate transition to college
   c. Unrealistic expectations for education demands
   d. Unrealistic expectations
   e. 1$^{st}$ generation
   f. Cultural transition – high school →college
   g. Assuming that college is like high school

3. **Situational Issues: 11% of votes**
   a. Childcare
   b. Personal issues
   c. Personal crises
   d. Drugs and alcohol use
   e. Unstable home life
   f. Lack of social support

4. **Poor Academic Preparation: 11% of votes**
   a. Lack appropriate background and skills
   b. Not college ready (3 times)
   c. Poor academic preparation (2 times)
   d. Lack basic skills
   e. Fear of math
   f. Lack of knowledge

5. **Poor Study Skills: 8% of votes**
   a. Not doing school work (2 times)
   b. Poor study skills habits (3 times)
   c. Lack of learning skills

6. **Attendance: 6% of votes**
   a. Absent (3 times)

7. **Money: 6% of votes**
   a. Financial aid problems
   b. Not having texts and materials
   c. Unemployment
   d. Need to work full time
   e. Lack of money
   f. Lack of financial resources

8. **Poor Attitude: 5% of votes**
   a. Lack of focus
   b. Sense of entitlement
   c. Overconfidence
   d. Poor work ethic
   e. Going through the motions
   f. Do poorly in classes they don't like, do well in classes they do like
   g. Lack self-assertion when challenged
   h. Don't want to be here
   i. Lack of motivation
   j. Lazy
   k. Poor self-discipline
   l. Immaturity
   m. Think they're slumming at ACC
   n. No commitment
   o. Unfocused

9. **Intrinsic Issues: 5% of votes**
   a. Health issues
   b. Feel isolated
   c. Mental illness/Poor self esteem
   d. Emotional instability

10. **Time Management: 5% of votes**
    a. Over commitment (4 times)
    b. Other non-academic responsibilities
    c. Too many responsibilities
    d. Not organized

11. **Ignorance of College Resources: 3% of votes**
    a. Poor support system
    b. Fear of asking for help
    c. Never open catalog
    d. Receive inconsistent information
    e. Don't know the ropes
    f. Lack knowledge of college support systems
    g. Do not use resources
    h. Confusing college systems

12. **Lack of Goals: 2% of votes**
    a. Lack of goals (3 times)
    b. No sense of purpose
    c. No sense of why they are here
    d. Unsure of goals

13. **Transportation: 0% of goals**
    a. Travel between campuses
    b. Transportation problems

3. What strategies do you suggest for addressing one of more of the weaknesses identified in the preceding step?

1. **Actionable Data: 23.1% of votes**
    a. Data at the department level
    b. Provide data that can be used
    c. Measure impact of student success "initiatives"
    d. ACC asks students why were unsuccessful
    e. "Mandatory" based on data. (courses, prerequisites, orientations, etc.)

2. **Personal Connection with ACC: 21.2% of votes**
    a. Have a family/parents day (2 times)
    b. Personal connection to the ACC brand
    c. Increase student ROI (time, $, effort)
    d. Improve student connections within ACC
    e. Develop a sense of community (virtual, web 2.0, social, human connection)
    f. Student radio and TV communication

3. **Human Connection: 13.5% of votes**
    a. Implement and enhance existing faculty advising program
    b. Tele-counseling
    c. Personal Touch connection mentoring
    d. Faculty mentors for student

4. **Faculty Professional Development: 11.5% of votes**
    a. Development on educational strategies
    b. Use of more active-learning technology
    c. Professional Development on pedagogy

5. **Mandatory if Appropriate: 11.5% of vote**
    a. Eliminate late registration
    b. Identify student needs up front; target appropriate services to those needs
    c. College readiness transition target learning outcomes

    d. Require study skills class (2 times)
    e. Students need better understanding of what faculty expectations are

6. **Orientation: 9.6% of votes**
    a. Revamp content/curriculum, have an extended orientation
    b. Students have clear expectations by faculty
    c. Orientation to include clear expectations for Course level study
    d. Better student orientation
    e. Communicate realistic expectations

7. **Academic Support: 7.7% of votes**
    a. Collaborative learning groups to get more students engaged
    b. Focus more of ACC's resources (human, $, physical) directly on student success/support
    c. More Supplemental Instruction offered
    d. Freshman learning communities

8. **Faculty Resources: 1.9% of votes**
    a. Expand faculty recruiting efforts
    b. Open up more course sections
    c. More full time faculty
    d. Better faculty salaries

9. **Follow-Through: 0.0% of votes**
    a. Target each specific group directly (Listservs)
    b. Use Social Networking (Twitter)
    c. Match what we say we do with what we actually do

*Topics from Data Retreat*

1. Looking at data about graduation rates, student success in gateway courses, students' transition from developmental education or retention what groups of students are doing the best or the poorest?

    1. **Developmental Education**
        a. Males need help, especially Black men
        b. Financial aid seems to help
        c. Hispanic women also need help
        d. 2007 seemed to be an odd year
        e. Males not performing as well as females
        f. English courses more successful than math
        g. The overall percent of students passing is dropping
        h. The number of students enrolled in developmental education is dropping
        i. Black and White women improved the most
        j. Students seem to take English courses before Math
        k. The number of Pell recipients has remained flat while the overall enrollment has increased
        l. Why so few students enrolled in Developmental Education when 70% of ACC students *place* into developmental education?

    2. **Gatekeeper Courses**
        a. White and Black women are more successful across Math, English and History gatekeeper courses
        b. Black men did the poorest, 20% of Black men passed college algebra
        c. From 2007-2008 the success rate of both Black men and women decreased in math
        d. Gender gap, men are doing poorer
        e. Declining success of White men
        f. Pell versus Non-Pell was all over the board
        g. Why so few black men enrolled?
        h. History seems to be a challenge
        i. Success rates for Black students increased in one year and decreased the next

    3. **Retention**
        a. Hispanic and White students are returning at similar rates
        b. Non-FTIC attrition is highest among non-Pell students
        c. Males typically failed to return at the highest rate
        d. American Indians also have a lower retention rate
        e. Highest retention among non-Resident Aliens
        f. Return rates Fall-to-Fall found that Pell students retention rate is higher

    4. **Graduation**
        a. Black men finishing last, Black women are also at the bottom
        b. No data for American Indians
        c. Women are completing more degrees
        d. Developmental Education students earn more degrees and certificates
        e. FTIC graduation rates are low, period
        f. The graduation rate is only 2%, even if we doubled or tripled the graduation rate it would still be low
        g. Non-Pell students complete more degrees
        h. Three years may not be a long enough time period to consider

2. In what substantive areas of ACC might we focus efforts to produce the most significant improvements in outcomes for the largest number of students? What specific subpopulations of students merit further attention and focus? Given this information, what current programs/efforts at ACC warrant further attention: to evaluate effectiveness? To consider scaling up?

   1. **Areas to Target:**
      a. Do more to prepare students in gatekeeper courses
      b. Dedicated counselors to learning communities
      c. Need to focus on gatekeeper and developmental education courses
      d. Focus on retention and graduation by looking at course completion issues
      e. Look at advising to figure out why are students are here and where they want to go
      f. Focus on students when they first arrive at ACC
      g. Need to match students to courses in a more systematic manner to fit students' needs
      h. Increase the faculty's role in advising
      i. Focus on prerequisites, especially in English and Math
      j. Building community in a fractured campus system
      k. Build faculty-student connections more
      l. Focus on classroom climate to build student effort
      m. Engagement with resources is key; need to build connections between faculty and support areas to make sure students get to the right places
      n. If we increase retention what will that do to class size? Will ACC add new sections or just increase enrolment in courses?
      o. How do you build community at a fractured campus system? How do we get students engaged at a commuter times seven college, because students bounce between campuses?
      p. How do you build pride in attending ACC and remove the stigma of going to Community College?

   2. **Students to Target:**
      a. Incoming students, FTIC to match needs
      b. Look at early start students
      c. African American men

   3. **Programs to Assess with Data and Consider Ramping Up:**
      a. Men of Distinction Program
      b. Faculty-staff diversity program
      c. Mandatory training on services for all faculty (including adjuncts)
      d. Expand student success course, put it online?
      e. Faculty drop of students
      f. Conduct focus groups with students to see why they do what they do?
      g. Changing syllabi/policies/expectations for behavior
      h. Unclaimed scholarship money, promotion of scholarships by faculty (e.g., Visual Communication model)
      i. Professional development focusing on active and collaborative teaching may be important given CCSSE data