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Holiday Issue

Financial Wellness
Challenges Our Students Face

University Institutional Research and Reporting (UIRR) in concert with regional campuses, and IU’s Office of Financial Literacy, administered a Financial Wellness Survey throughout the IU system in fall 2019. The purpose of the survey is to provide campus leadership with information about the financial situations students face. Several campus representatives helped with designing the survey instrument, recruiting and conversing with students during cognitive interviews. The student feedback received from these cognitive interviews was instrumental in shaping the instrument. The students polled shared their experiences on financial wellness that encompassed but was not limited to housing, food, and transportation insecurities. Students also talked about their attitudes towards borrowing as well as hours they work to support themselves and their families.

See Financial Wellness Survey, Page 3
REGIONAL CAMPUS WORKING GROUPS

IUIE and AM360 Work Aids, Program Review Template, and Graduate Student Profile

The Regional Campus IR Directors met for a Summer Retreat that focused on technical training on the Tableau Data Visualization tool. Emboldened with that knowledge, the IR Directors left that session with a few projects to tackle. Those projects include an IUIE and AM360 work aid that will be useful to new Chairs and Deans, a Program Review Template that will be useful for internal planning and external reporting to accreditors, and a Graduate Beginner Profile that allows campuses to better understand the Student Profile of their Graduate students. The Regional Campus Working Groups have created a crosswalk of shared metrics to include in program reviews; work will continue towards rendering a comprehensive Program Review Template that resides online.

DATA FORUMS

Fostering Data Literacy on Our Campuses

One charge that emerged from the Regional Campus Chancellors’ Academic Leadership Summit held at IU Kokomo on September 5-6, 2019, was the need to foster a data culture on our campuses, while building data literacy as a core competency that IU employees can deploy when performing their job duties. UIRR addressed that need by collaborating with regional campus local IR offices to facilitate a series of data forums (workshops) that were hands-on, allowing faculty and staff an opportunity to explore the use-case scenarios they want answers to, while also providing feedback on preferred views to improve various reports. UIRR shared access to extant data resources with employees, engaged in a fruitful discourse that led to a couple follow-up projects, a sustainable model to keep the communication channels open (a prerequisite to an open data culture). UIRR intends to schedule online zoom office hours to answer questions and support the data user group(s) that are expected to form on individual campuses in particular, and all employees in general who may have questions about data. UIRR welcomes ideas on how we can continue to serve our regional campus constituents.
The results of the survey will be widely available in spring 2020. The discoveries will be delivered in multiple formats namely, campus level executive reports, an interactive online Tableau report, and access to actual raw data in the IUIE and data warehouse. Researchers will be able to extract that data and use it for their campus specific analyses and reporting. The preliminary findings below speak to the realities our students face as they are on their journey to complete their academic studies.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Financial Wellness Survey
Key Insights for the Regional Campuses

Earlier this year, UIRR administered a survey that asked students at all Indiana University campuses about their financial wellness. The survey included questions about a variety of topics, including debt and borrowing, student employment and finances, food and housing insecurity, and campus support. Below is a summary of how students from the regional campuses responded to key questions.

- 46.0% are often or always distressed about being able to pay for day-to-day living expenses
- 32.5% provide financial support for another family member
- 22.1% say their current financial situation will or might be a barrier for re-enrolling in the spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Resources and Planning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80.3% currently work for pay</td>
<td>50.8% don’t use financial support services offered by their campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>33.1% of those say that their work often or always gets in the way of academic studies</td>
<td>49.9% have never used a budgeting tool during their time at IU</td>
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<tr>
<th>Food and Bills</th>
<th>Cash and Credit</th>
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<tr>
<td>35.1% have eaten less than they felt that they should in the past 30 days because there wasn’t enough money for food</td>
<td>48.1% would not be able to get $500 in cash for an unexpected need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.8% have had difficulty paying their utilities in the past 12 months</td>
<td>42.9% who have used a credit card pay less than their full balance each month</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

THE 3D’S COMING TO A VENUE NEAR YOU

Are you interested in furthering data literacy on your campus? Would you like us to conduct a workshop for a cadre of professionals on your campus on a specific topic? Send a request and we will schedule a visit to your campus (for groups larger than 15) or a zoom meeting for smaller groups to engage in some Deep Data Dives.
NERDS- PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS

The Navigable Enrollment and Retention Decision Support (NERDS) Interface is a predictive analytics tool that UIRR has designed, created, and tested in consultation with the Regional Campus Admissions Directors. The tool uses inferential statistics in the background to derive algorithms that analyze a multitude of variables to predict the likelihood of students enrolling, and persisting at a given campus. The variables analyzed pertain to institutional and admissions processes and events (CRM data input), pre-collegiate attributes, student demographics, and an interaction among all these variables. Other variables such as distance travelled to campus, living in a regional campus service region, application and admission to several IU campuses, financial aid, online modality, are a few of over a hundred variables that are being considered in the campus specific models.

The Yield Score (likelihood of enrolling) and the Retention Score (likelihood of returning the subsequent fall semester) for each student are graphed on an interactive scatterplot that the admission staff will be able to get row level data on the student's characteristics and contact information so as to tailor their communications. The tool also facilitates recruitment travel as the predictive scores are mapped for each campus and their service region. The models are continuously ran and will update weekly. The scores will be dynamic and change to reflect the inclusion of new data as students move through the admissions pipeline. Admission staff will have access to the tool in early spring to help in their work to recruit the fall 2020 Class, while also providing invaluable feedback. With this regional support, UIRR will continue to refine and perfect the models particularly as it relates to the Retention Score (challenging endeavor so early in the funnel).
EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

Student Success

As an institution, we are trying to gain deeper insights into the employment outcomes of our graduates. The outcomes of IU Bachelor Degree recipients visualized in this Tableau report (published on the Hoosiers By The Numbers website), is attributable to a partnership between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and UIRR. The students included in the analysis were all IU bachelor recipients from academic years 2006, 2011, and 2015. UIRR has since supplied data for all years between 2006 and 2017. The inclusion of more years of data, coupled with an adjustment in salary data from nominal wages to inflation-adjusted wages, will allow for better comparisons across time. The analysis is restricted to graduates who work within the state of Indiana upon degree completion. To that end, UIRR is exploring a similar partnership with the US Census Bureau, as well as an internal First Destination Survey (includes other successful outcomes like enrollment in graduate studies, volunteer and military opportunities etc.) to get a holistic view of graduate outcomes.

TRANSFER SURVEY

Transfer Student Experience

UIRR administered a Transfer Survey on all the IU campuses on behalf of the University Transfer Office. The survey was developed to assess “transfer friendliness” at each campus. These questions were adapted from the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (ACCRAO) Transfer Student Bill of Rights. The response rates on each campus were as follows: East 27.3%, Kokomo 23.7%, Northwest 30.6%, and South Bend 28.1%, Southeast 21.0%. The full Tableau report will be available in Spring 2020.