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BEGINNINGS

- Flex meeting (get to know each other, set meeting times)
- First meeting - decide on research question(s)

Research Question:
What factors impact student success in compressed formats of accelerated learning?
RESEARCH ACTION PLAN

- **Syllabi Analysis**
  - Collected all Fall 2011 Fast Track syllabi for the first 8-week session
  - Analyzed for a wide variety of factors

- **Focus Groups**
  - Students
  - Faculty (Instructors, Counselors, Librarians, and Success Center Faculty)

- **Surveys**
  - Students
  - Faculty
  - Counselors
SYLLABI ANALYSIS RESULTS

- Analyzed 62 Fast Track syllabi
- Only 2 syllabi explicitly explained the unique aspects of taking a Fast Track class
- A few syllabi gave students tips on succeeding in courses (in general), but few regarding Fast Track strategies
- Some did not include Success Center info
- As a result, the FIT developed a Fast Track Syllabus Statement Template
Students preferred the faster pace of FT

Students consciously engaged in better self-regulation (time management, completing homework, staying on task, attending class, etc.) in their FT classes

Students felt more connected to classmates and their instructors in FT

Students said that FT was more challenging, but it was also more rewarding

Students said that FT required them to work harder, stay on top of things better, and have better time management skills
Faculty responses to FT were mixed

- Some faculty loved FT and the benefits it brought their students and their classroom environment
  - Students were more connected with each other
  - Students turned in assignments on time
  - Students seemed more engaged in the class
  - Teachers had longer blocks of time to accomplish certain types of activities or engage in deeper levels of discussion
- Some faculty had mixed feelings about FT
  - Grading and giving prompt feedback was a challenge
  - Some courses didn’t seem to work as well in FT format
  - Faculty who taught a mixture of FT/full-term had difficulty managing the time issues, grading, etc.
Student Survey Results

- Student Feedback Regarding Fast Track
  - Survey respondents reported high satisfaction with their Fast-Track course experience ($M = 4.31$; on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being “very satisfied” and 1 “very dissatisfied”)
  - 91.5% indicated that they would take another Fast-Track course at Chaffey

- Self-Efficacy was highly correlated with success in Fast Track courses
  - Self-efficacy increased over the duration of the Fast Track courses
ACCELERATED STUDENT SUCCESS RATES

- All Courses: 84.42%
- Full-Term Courses: 77.55%
- Fast-Track Courses: 90.45%

All Students Fall 2011 - 70.28%
ACCELERATED STUDENT RETENTION RATES

- All Courses: 96.26%
- Full-Term Courses: 93.71%
- Fast-Track Courses: 98.51%

All Students Fall 2011 - 89.79%
ACCELERATED STUDENT TERM GPA

- Fast-Track Only: 3.15
- Fast-Track, Full-Term Mix: 2.7

All Students Fall 2011 - 2.48
Faculty survey results

- Faculty satisfaction with FT was polarized - some instructors had very positive responses and others had more negative responses.
  - 41.3% of instructors disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement “I would rather teach a Fast-Track than a Full-Term course,” whereas 44.8% agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.
  - 44.8% of instructors agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “I believe the benefits of Fast-Track courses outweigh costs,” whereas 34.5% disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.
Faculty generally agreed that, compared to Full-Term courses...

- FT students face more academic challenges
- FT students display a stronger sense of community with one another
- FT students struggle more with the pace of instruction
- FT students struggle more with meeting course deadlines
- Faculty felt more challenged teaching FT courses
Counselors believe that Fast-Track courses are beneficial for specific types of students:
- Self-motivated
- Demonstrate a sense of urgency

Counselors do not believe that students fully understand Fast-Track courses before they are explained.

According to counselors, students taking Fast-Track courses report needing more counseling, success center access, and financial aid.
ACCELERATED FIT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Best Practices for Teaching Fast Track Classes document
- Fast Track Syllabus Statement
- Tips for Students Taking Fast Track
- Fast Track Website Changes/Resources
- Recommendations from the Accelerated Learning Faculty Inquiry Team
THANK YOU, FROM THE FAST AND FIT!