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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
STUDENT FOCUS GROUPS
FAST TRACK STUDENTS RESPONSES

- 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 Students Fall 2011 - 89.79

- All Courses: 96.26
- Full-Term Courses: 93.71
- Fast-Track Courses: 98.51
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
COUNSELOR SURVEY RESULTS

- 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!