

Operation Refresh
Campus Community Conversations
Academic Excellence Sessions

August 23 & August 26
Facilitator: David Nixon

Total participants 41 + 30 = 71

Feedback on Briefing

Questions / comments

- “What if” section – need to add Education as one of regional initiatives
- Need to tell graduate program “story” in any community talking points

Additional data recommended

- Compare MMC data to national & peer benchmarks
- Collegeresult.com – comparative data
- Data on graduate programs & relation of ug/grad programs in terms of academic excellence

Hurdles

Make-do mindset is not making do for us. Think about not just living with what we have, but expanding.

Low ACT scores- academic excellence applies to quality of faculty but also to type of students we attract. Low ACT scores directly impact dream stated in Briefing. These students don't have a reasonable chance of succeeding despite faculty efforts and time.

Creative thinking

Buildings – We need to look at how we can share infrastructure (spaces that can be utilized by multiple campus areas and also by external, community groups)

Programming – Community Education Institute – place to model best practices in education for underserved & to host other colleges

Programming – Do we need money for a program for students who come ill-prepared and have them in this pre-program until they're ready for a degree line?

Reputation – Better signage to make external community aware MMC is here – “small money, big impact to create presence in the community”

Programming – Community arts or community counseling center? Better for community and students to learn – whole person developing plus undergrad and grad students working together

Technology – IT “playroom” to test / learn about software, etc. & explore ways to use in classroom

Outlier

Internal / external perceptions as a liberal arts college for women – how to get men into grad programs – difficulty in recruitment of men

Major Themes (as identified by facilitator during conversations)

Increase faculty salaries –

Help with recruitment & retention

Increase caliber of faculty based on AAUP report data

Open review dialogue about salaries / benefits

Also noted – support staff play large role in faculty doing jobs & compensation levels should be addressed as well

Increase # / % of FT faculty –

Make this human infrastructure a priority

Increase FT faculty to 60% of faculty appointments

Free up FT faculty to engage with First and Second Years for better retention

Strengthen PT faculty (teaching skills, depth in their disciplines, commitment to MMC & mission)

Top Themes (as identified by # of references recorded on flip charts / observer notes)

