

# Academic Leadership Learning Collaborative

## COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Each year, the Academic Leadership Learning Collaborative (AL-LC) undertakes two major Collaborative Research investigations to examine issues of importance to the entire membership. Collaborative Research investigations are foundational research studies developed and executed with input from the institutions that make up the AL-LC, with members playing a lead role in defining each investigation's goals. They focus on major trends and issues of long-term strategic importance to senior academic leaders using data sets or case studies drawn from across the membership and are used by members to examine national trends impacting institutions of higher education nationwide.

### *Examples of Recently Completed and Upcoming Collaborative Research Initiatives*

REPORT TITLE	METHODOLOGY	TARGET REPORT RELEASE DATE
Effective Practices for Faculty Orientation and Development	Benchmarking Data; Member Interviews; Secondary Research	Completed
Faculty Perceptions and Preferences for Orientation and Development	Faculty Survey	Completed
Creating a Retention Management Culture – Retention Analysis	Predictive Model Analysis – IPEDS data	Completed
Creating a Retention Management Culture – Retention Best Practices	Interviews with High Performing Institutions in Regards to Retention	Completed
Innovation in the General Education Curriculum	Primary Research; Secondary Research	Winter 2009/2010
Models for Collaboration in International Education	Interviews; Secondary Research	Summer 2010

### *Effective Practices for Faculty Orientation and Development*

Adequate faculty orientation and ongoing development play an important role in retaining faculty and ensuring the highest quality experience for students. This research identifies effective member practices that support faculty orientation and development, and examines effective strategies used to orient new faculty to the campus culture and equip them with the fundamental skills necessary to teach, advise, research, and fulfill other responsibilities. In addition, this study explores the issue of how to provide initial and ongoing development and support to faculty. Data was collected from members regarding their current practices, the impact of those practices, and the advantages and disadvantages of various approaches. Primary research in the form of faculty surveys was also a component of this research, in an effort to identify the orientation and development practices that are most effective in making faculty feel well-prepared and supported.

*“Following the success of our first study, every time we are having a conversation about a major institutional decision, someone in the room is asking if this is something that Eduventures can help us with.”*

Dr. David Brailow  
VP of Academic Affairs  
Franklin College

### Creating a Retention Management Culture

Increasing student retention is a common goal for many institutions but is a complex challenge due to the numerous entities at a school that play a role in managing retention. This case analysis and practices study outlines processes and practices for creating a campus culture of shared accountability for student retention. The study examines innovations and best practices for developing a systemic solution to managing retention in which each stakeholder is accountable for his or her impact on student retention. Specifically, the research identifies effective ways to encourage faculty to proactively identify at-risk students and partner with the broader campus community to ensure student academic success.

### Innovation in the General Education Curriculum

As students are expected to master new and changing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to be effective in the workplace, general education must also change. This investigation would offer an examination of innovations and new approaches to general education. Member institutions can use this information to achieve better student learning outcomes, attract students, and align general education offerings with the institutional mission.

### Models for Collaboration in International Education

As the education market globalizes, universities increasingly are looking overseas for new growth opportunities. Often, overseas programs and campuses are set up as joint ventures or partnerships with other institutions of higher education. This study would support the burgeoning international

growth efforts of members by studying the models for institutional collaboration. The study could make use of case studies within the membership to profile the benefits and challenges of certain models and to understand the most successful means of market entry, approaches to marketing and partnership, and design of existing partnerships.

*“In some ways, our university has been operating on a Cadillac level at a Ford budget. Eduventures gives me data that I can use and hold up to justify and defend certain decisions that might face resistance internally.”*

Acting Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Private University in the Northeast



## RESEARCH BRIEFS

In an increasingly competitive and dynamic environment, AL-LC members seek strategies and insight to support complex decision-making. Research briefs are developed by the AL-LC research team to provide timely insight into emerging areas of interest for the collective membership. Research briefs are typically short, focused reviews of available secondary literature or in-house Eduventures research or expertise, and are meant to provide the AL-LC membership with an overview of data and trends related to a targeted topic of interest. Research briefs are developed in response to collective interest throughout the membership.

### COMPLETED AND UPCOMING RESEARCH BRIEFS

REPORT TITLE	TARGET REPORT RELEASE DATE
Serving the Adult Learner Market Through Continuing Education Offerings	Completed
The Internationalization of U.S Campuses: Practices, Strategies and Challenges in Global Integration	Completed
Best Practices for Using Market Research for the Development of Postsecondary Programs	Completed
Maximizing the Effectiveness of Institutional Web Sites: A Tool for Student Recruitment	Completed
Return on Educational Investment: Exploring the Impact of Financial Aid Literacy, Institutional Grants, and Career Preparation	Completed
The Market for Online Higher Education	Completed
Implications of Increasing Class Sizes and Strategies for Confronting Them	Completed
Social Media Landscape in Higher Education	Winter 2009/2010
Best Practices in Faculty Advising	Spring 2010
Practices in Assessing Community Engagement and Institutional Impact	Summer 2010

## CUSTOM ANALYSIS

Custom Analysis consists of targeted, member-specific research studies with topics identified and prioritized by individual members. The studies focus on strategic or operational issues specific to that member involving either primary or secondary research and use several possible methodologies such as benchmarking, analysis of members' in-house data and identification of best practices. All past Custom Research Reports are made available to the entire membership, allowing members to benefit from research conducted on behalf of other member institutions.

## SAMPLE CUSTOM RESEARCH REPORTS BY AL-LC RESEARCH THEME

### Maximizing Student Success

- *Strengths and Weaknesses of the Student Learning Environment: Variations in Learning Experiences and Perceptions of Select Student Segments*
- *Professional Academic Advising Ratios*

### Recruiting, Retaining and Developing Faculty

- *Benchmarking Faculty Productivity: Best Practices and Expectations for Faculty Productivity in Relation to Salary*
- *Diversifying Faculty: Trends and Innovations in Recruitment*

### Outcomes Assessment and Accountability

- *Tracking Strategic Progress: A Roadmap for Measuring Student Success*

### Program Portfolio Management

- *International Short-Term (Summer and Winter) MBA Programming Trends and Opportunities*
- *Academic Program Planning: Models and Criteria for Decision-Making*

### Effectively Managing Operations

- *The Effective Structure of Offices of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) – A National Study*
- *Organizational Effectiveness and Change: Structural Reactions to Enrollment Growth and Strategies for Change*

## MEMBER ROUNDTABLES

AL-LC staff organizes and hosts regular roundtable webinars to address issues of emerging concern to the membership. Drawing on the expertise of AL-LC members, Eduventures analysts, and experts, these facilitated discussions are designed to address current information gaps and identify future research directions. All Member Roundtables are recorded so member institutions can access them afterwards if they are unable to attend in person.

### Completed and Upcoming Member Roundtable Topics

REPORT TITLE	TARGET REPORT RELEASE DATE
Assessment: Practices and Approaches at Universities Today	Completed
Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Faculty	Completed
Leadership and Decision-Making in an Environment of Economic Uncertainty	Completed
The Economy and The Academy: Implications for Careers Services	Completed
The Economy and The Academy: Institutional Efforts to Support Students/Families Experiencing Financial Pressures	Completed
Using Financial Metrics to Understand Academic Program Costs	Completed
Best Practices in Undergraduate Student Advising	Completed
Effective Practices for Managing Board Jurisdiction Challenges	Fall 2009
Effective Approaches for Managing Adjunct Faculty	Spring 2010
Student Mental Health – The Faculty Role	Spring 2010

*“For assessment and accountability purposes we see a real benefit to having a third party analyze data for us. Eduventures provides a really cost effective service and we find it to be very reasonable relative to the value that we are getting out of it.*”

Randy Hitz  
Dean  
Portland State University