

Barriers to First-Generation Transfer Student Success

Tara Benson and Devon Wright

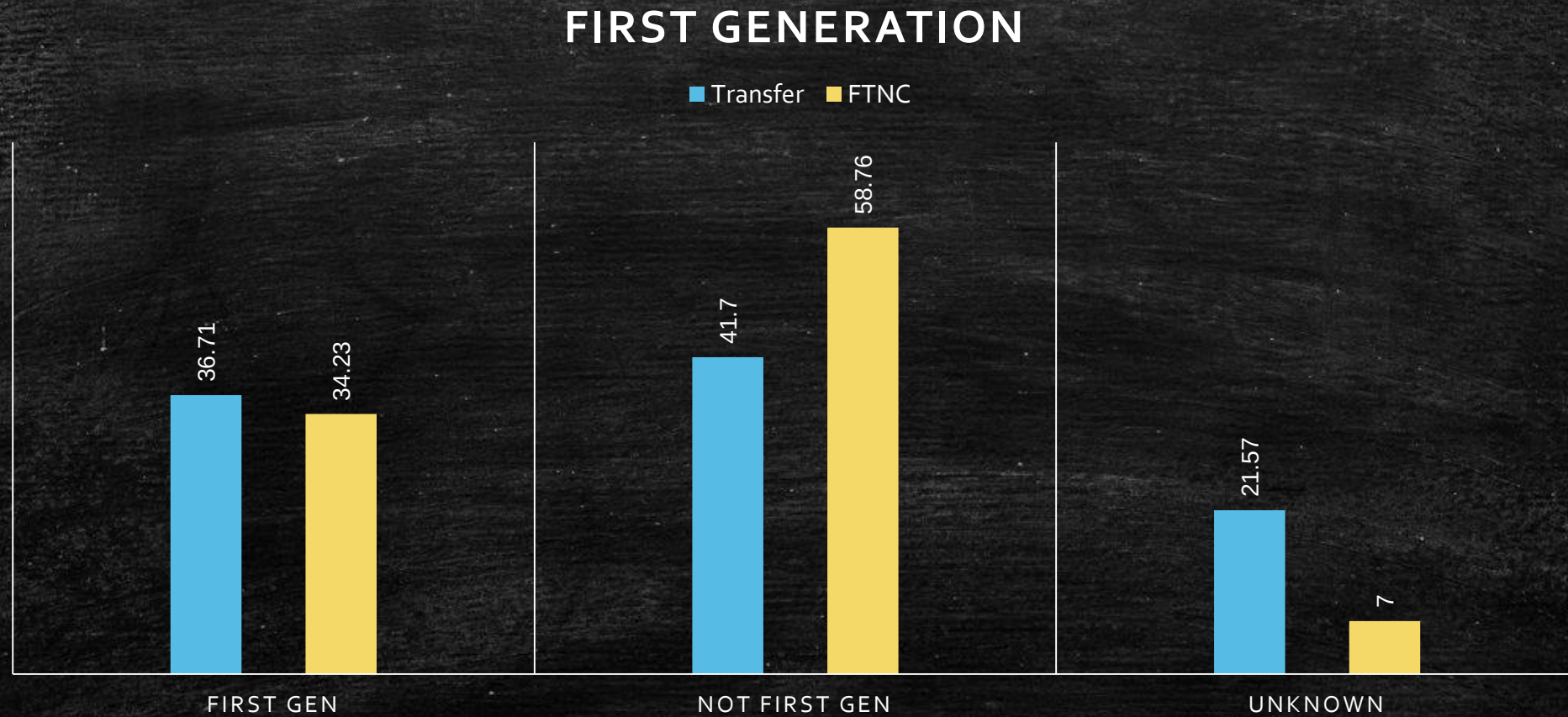
Why are we talking about Transfer and First Generation?

- Nationally, 36% of community college students are First Generation Students (Department of Education, 2010)
- Nearly 40% of all college students transfer credits at some point in their college career (Community College Research Group, 2015)
- Both populations have lower graduation and retention rates
- First Generation is defined as student's whose parents did not attend college
- Transfer is defined as 2-year to 4-year transfers

Worksheets

MYTHBUSTERS

Missouri State Transfer TS vs Native



MYTH 1: FGTS are not as intelligent as their peers

- No statistical evidence was found for a difference in the performance of native and transfer students
- FGTS relationships with faculty and staff
- Comfort and success
- FGTS work harder and study more than native non-FG peers

Categories (FY 2015 Data)	MSU Large Masters Granting	In-State PhD Granting	Out of State PdD Granting	Out of State Large Masters Granting
Enrollment	18,517	27,654	22,159	9,857
1st Time Full Time Freshmen	2,870	6,515	4,571	1,698
ACT Composite top 25%	21%	23%	21%	21%
% Receiving PELL	33%	21%	23%	46%
Fall to Fall Retention 2014 to 2015	76%	82%	83%	75%
Fall to Fall First-Gen Retention 2014 to 2015	73%			
6-Yr Grad Rate (2007 Cohort)	53%	70%	60%	35%
6-Yr First-Gen Grad Rate (2007 Cohort)	47%			

*Information provided by Dr. Rachelle Darabi, Dr. Kelly Wood, Dr. Tracey Glaessgen and Mr. Mark Biggs

FGTS and Non FGTS Academics

2016 Data	First Gen Students	Non-First Gen Students
ACT (average)	23.33 (43.7% above a 24)	24.36 (53.9% above 24)
High School GPA	3.60	3.67
Class Rank – top 20%	85%	84.9%

*Information provided by Dr.
Rachelle Darabi, Dr. Kelly Wood, Dr.
Tracey Glaessgen and Mr. Mark Biggs
First Generation Strategies to Improve
Student Success and Retention

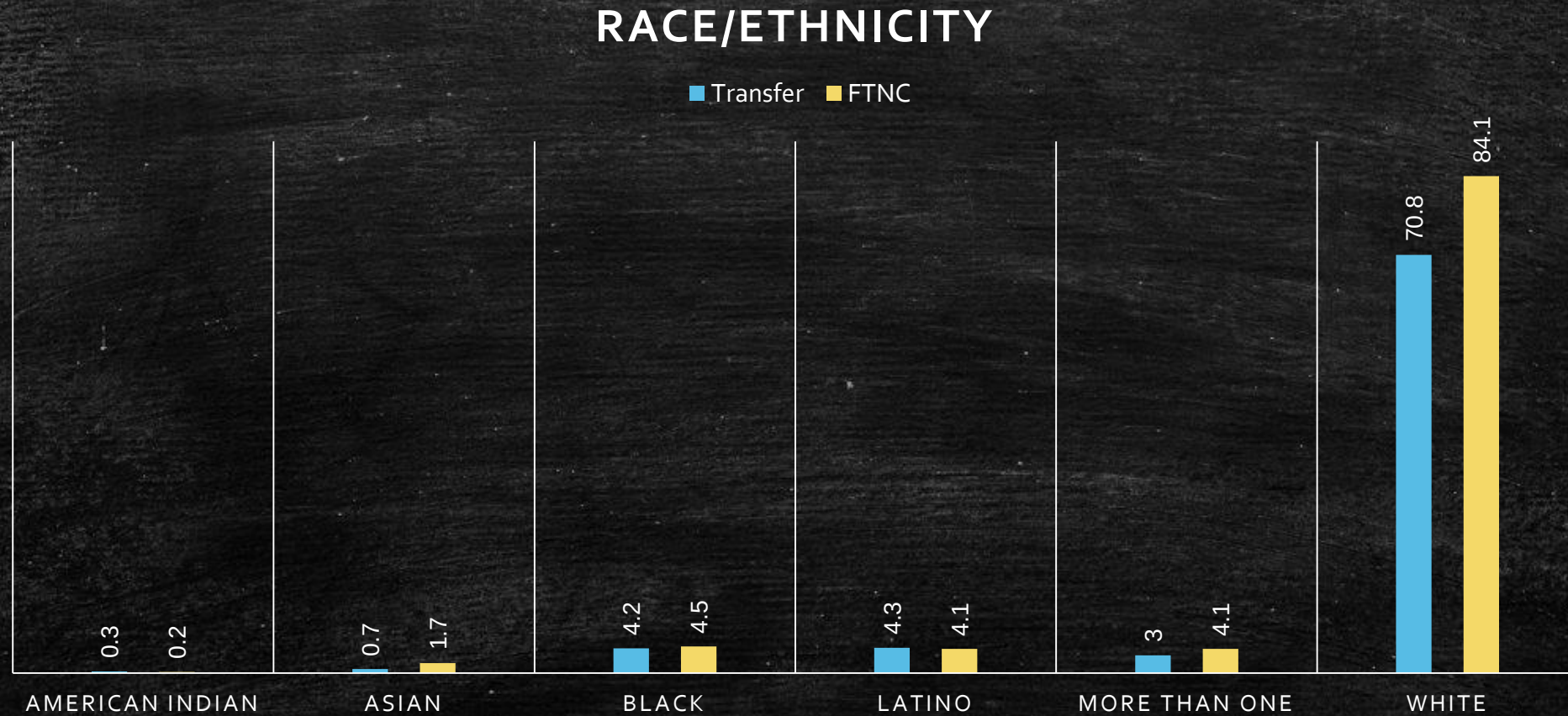
MYTH 1:FGTS are not as intelligent as
their peers

MYTHBUSTED

MYTH 2: FGTS are mostly from underrepresented groups

- While there are higher populations of underrepresented groups, they are just as diverse as the overall student body at an institution.

Missouri State Transfer TS vs Native

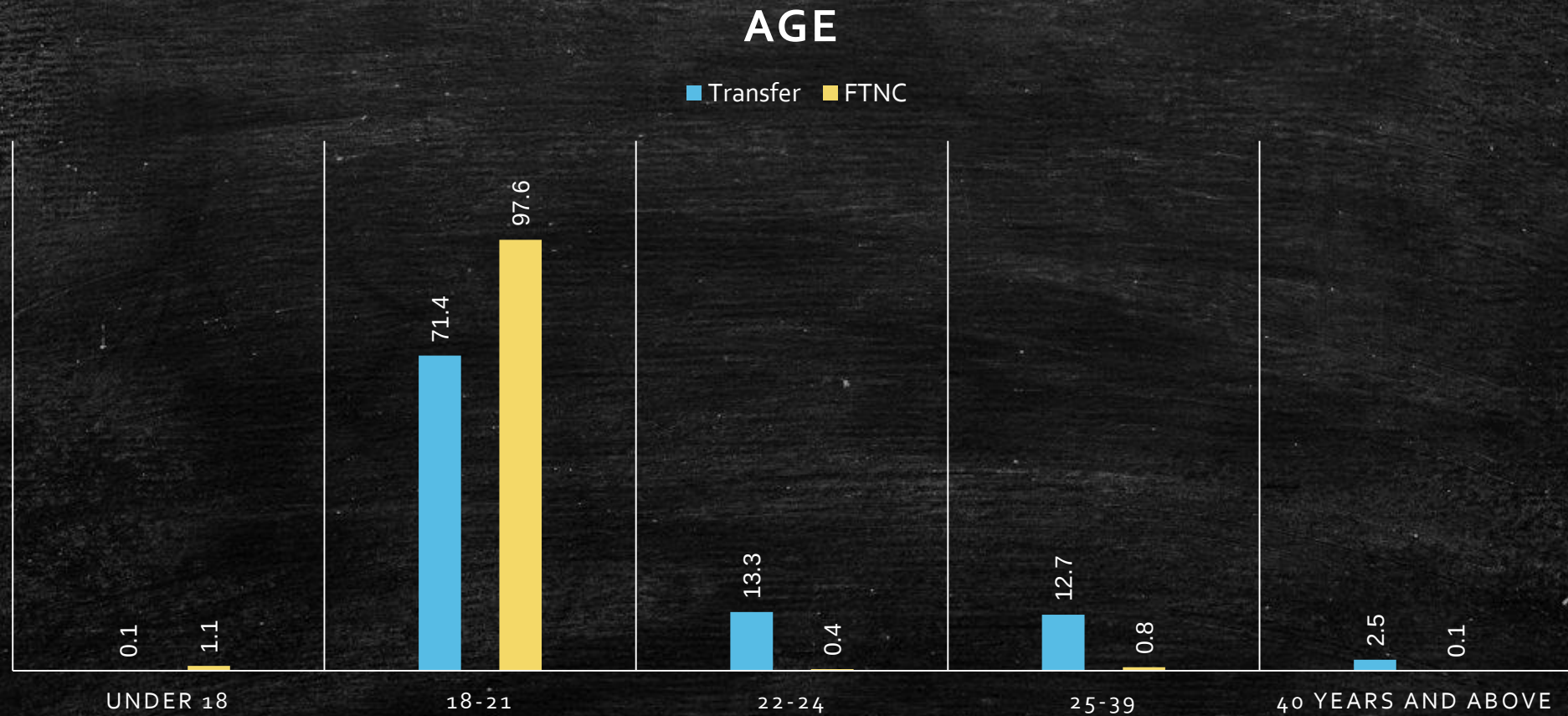


First Generation Ethnicity/Underrepresented

Fall 2016 First-Time New in College Data (3126 total students)	First Generation (1,109 students)	Non-First Generation (1,829 students)
% First-time New Students	35.47%	58.51%
Gender	64.2% Female	59.3% Female
Age – 18-21	96.6%	98.2%
Enrollment Status: Full-time	98.6%	99.0%
Pell Eligible*	50.3%	20.4%
Ethnicity/Underrepresented*	19.7%	11.7%
Living Off Campus*	17.7%	11.4%

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Missouri State Transfer TS vs Native



MYTH 2: FGTS are mostly from
underrepresented groups

MYTH BUSTED

MYTH 3: FGTS are lazy and unmotivated

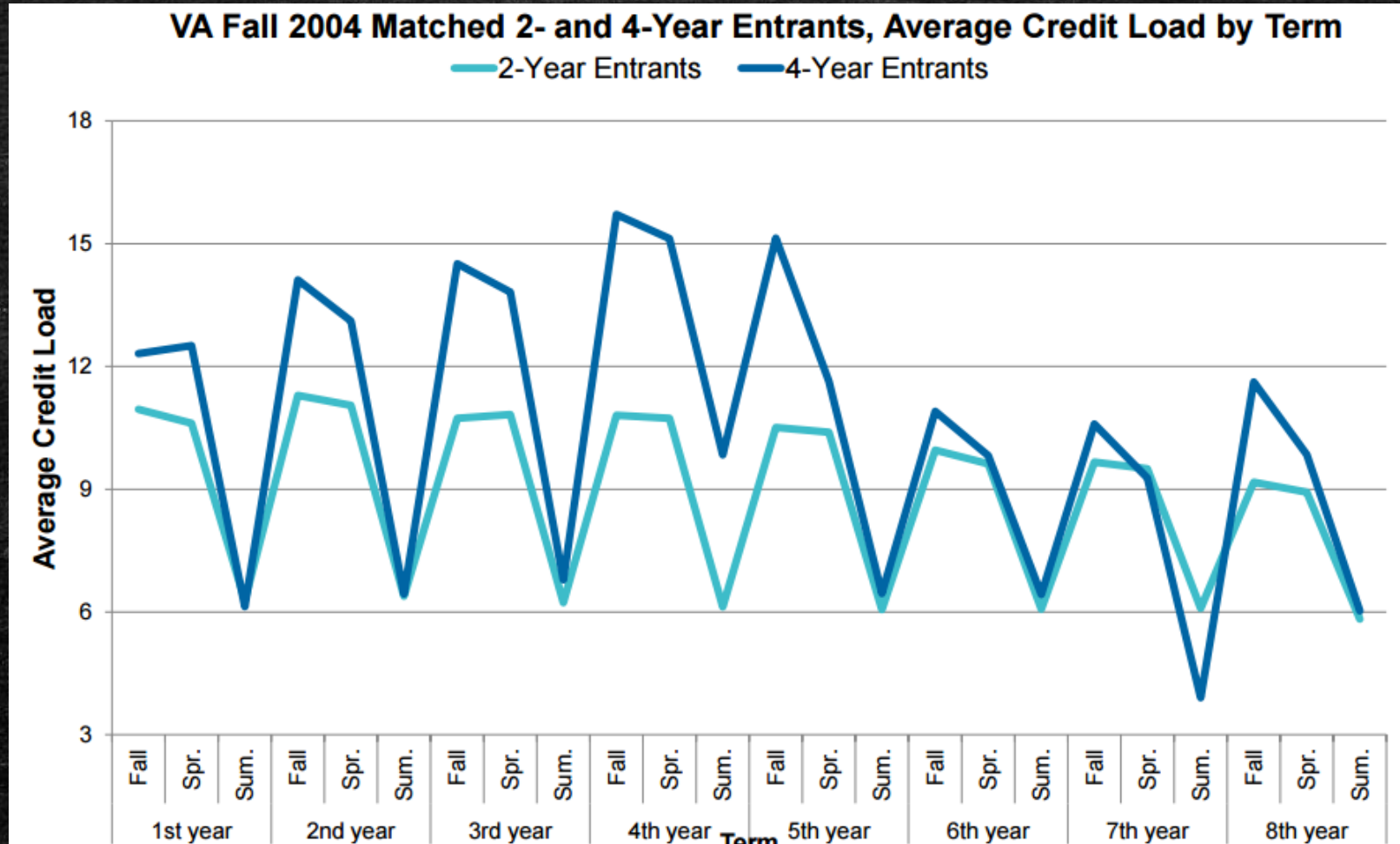
- They have less knowledge about resources and their support systems.
- Many FGTS are “reluctant and afraid” and underserved throughout previous education, they may not even know support systems exist (Jury, et. Al 2014, DiGiorgio, 2015).
- Transfer students take less credit hours than peers, and lag behind (Xu, Jagers & Fletcher, 2016).

NSSE Data 2016

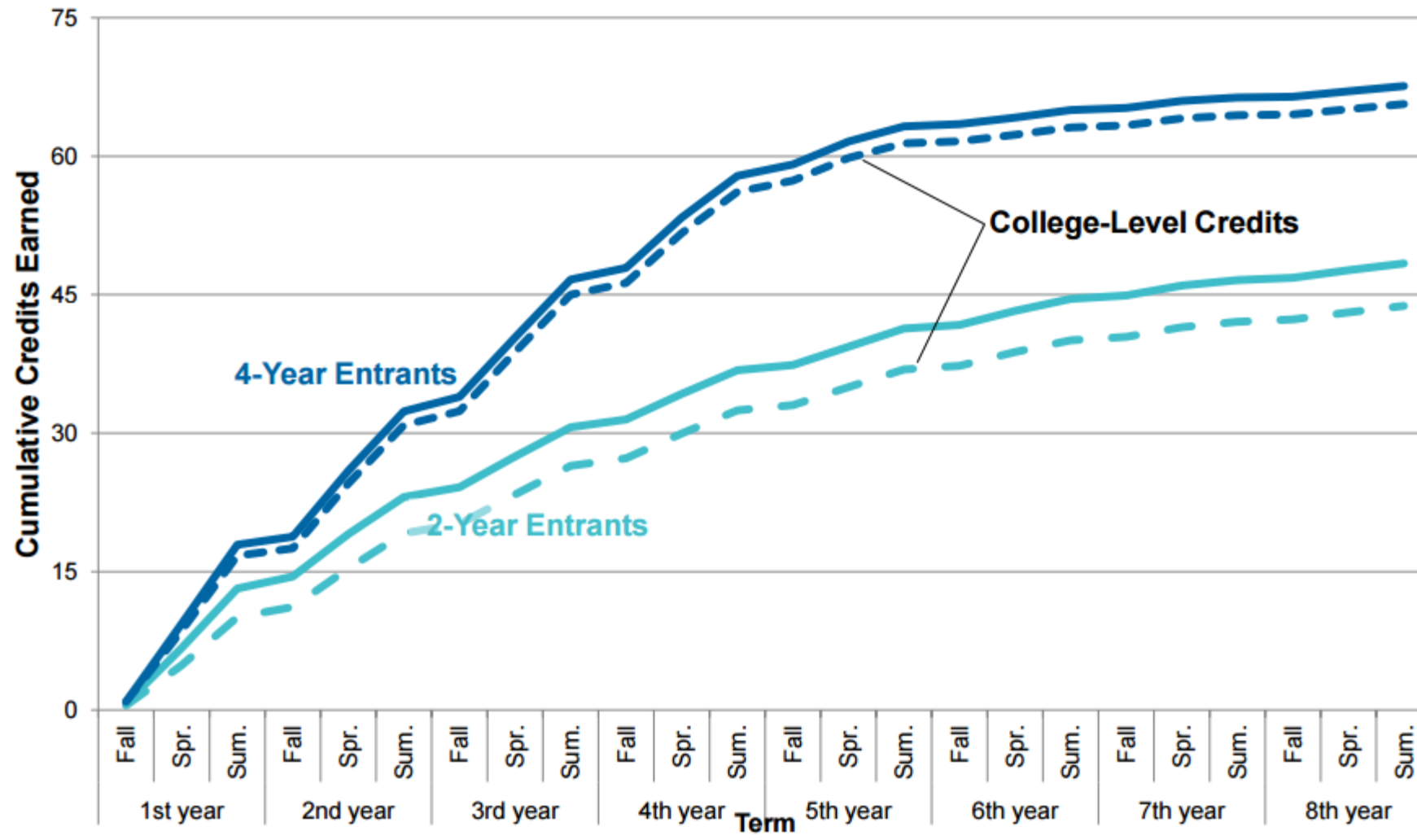
- Therefore, our FGS population must need other resources to succeed at similar rates:
- **Information** – *social capital related to college experience*
- **Proactive Contact** – via advisors, RA's, student peers
- **Increased Engagement** -- on campus
- **Additional Resources** – financial and social

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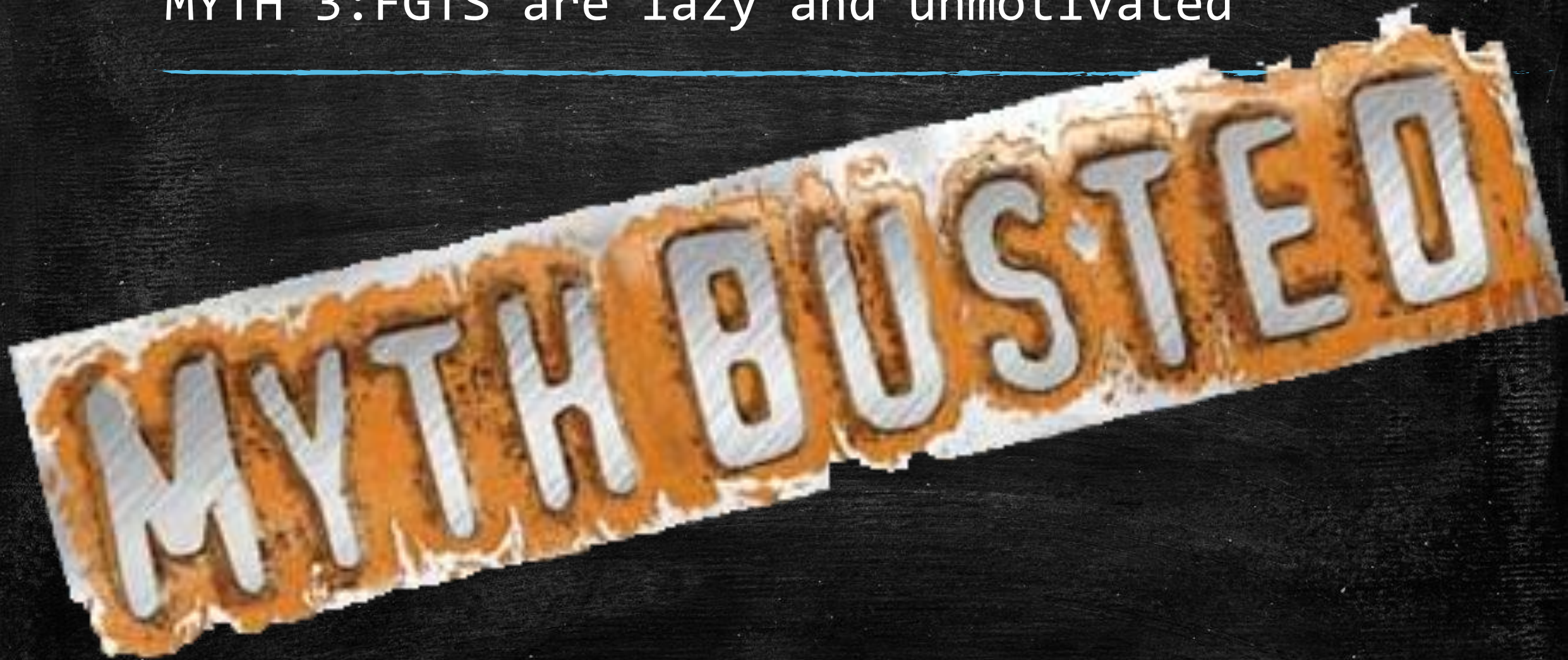
Lack of Early Momentum in Transfer Students



VA Fall 2004 Matched 2- and 4-Year Entrants, Cumulative Credits Earned by Term



MYTH 3: FGTS are lazy and unmotivated



MYTH 4: FGTS are not committed

- FGTS often have more commitments off campus, and thus are stretched thinner more than non-FG/native peers (Moschetti and Hadley, 2015).
- The federal government is encouraging post-secondary education (U.S. Dept of Ed, 2009) and many students taking advantage of this are First Gen (Bonget and Walters, 2013).

NSSE, 2016

Senior First Generation Students Reported the following:

- •Preparing *more* drafts of papers or assignments before turning them in
- •Writing *more* long papers (not significant) and *fewer* short papers (significant)
- •Spending many more hours providing care for live-in dependents

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MYTH 4: FGTS are not committed



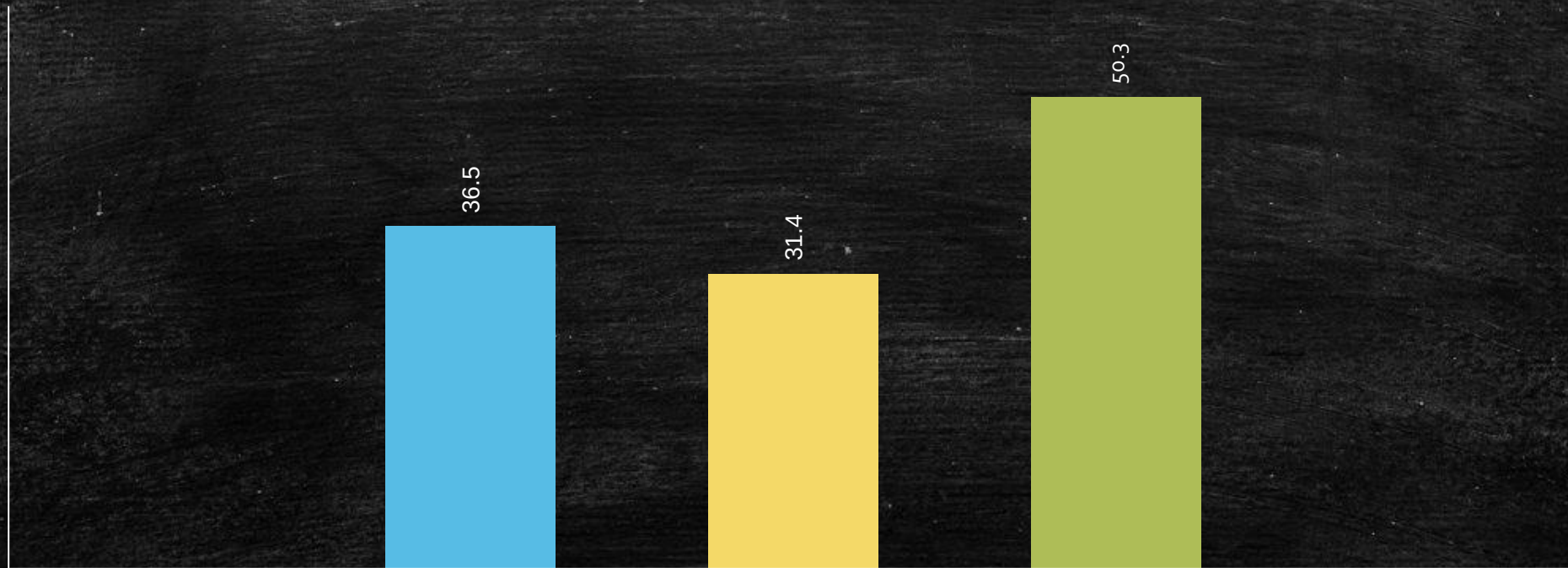
MYTH 5: FGTS are more financially savvy and receive more monetary benefit from higher education

- They are more concerned about finances, yet may not know how to access financial support and resources including scholarships, pell grants and loans.
- College students are paying more attention to the costs of education (National Student Clearinghouse, 2015).
- Students work FT to keep loan costs down, but this may affect a students ability to complete a degree (NSC, 2015).

Missouri State Transfer TS vs Native

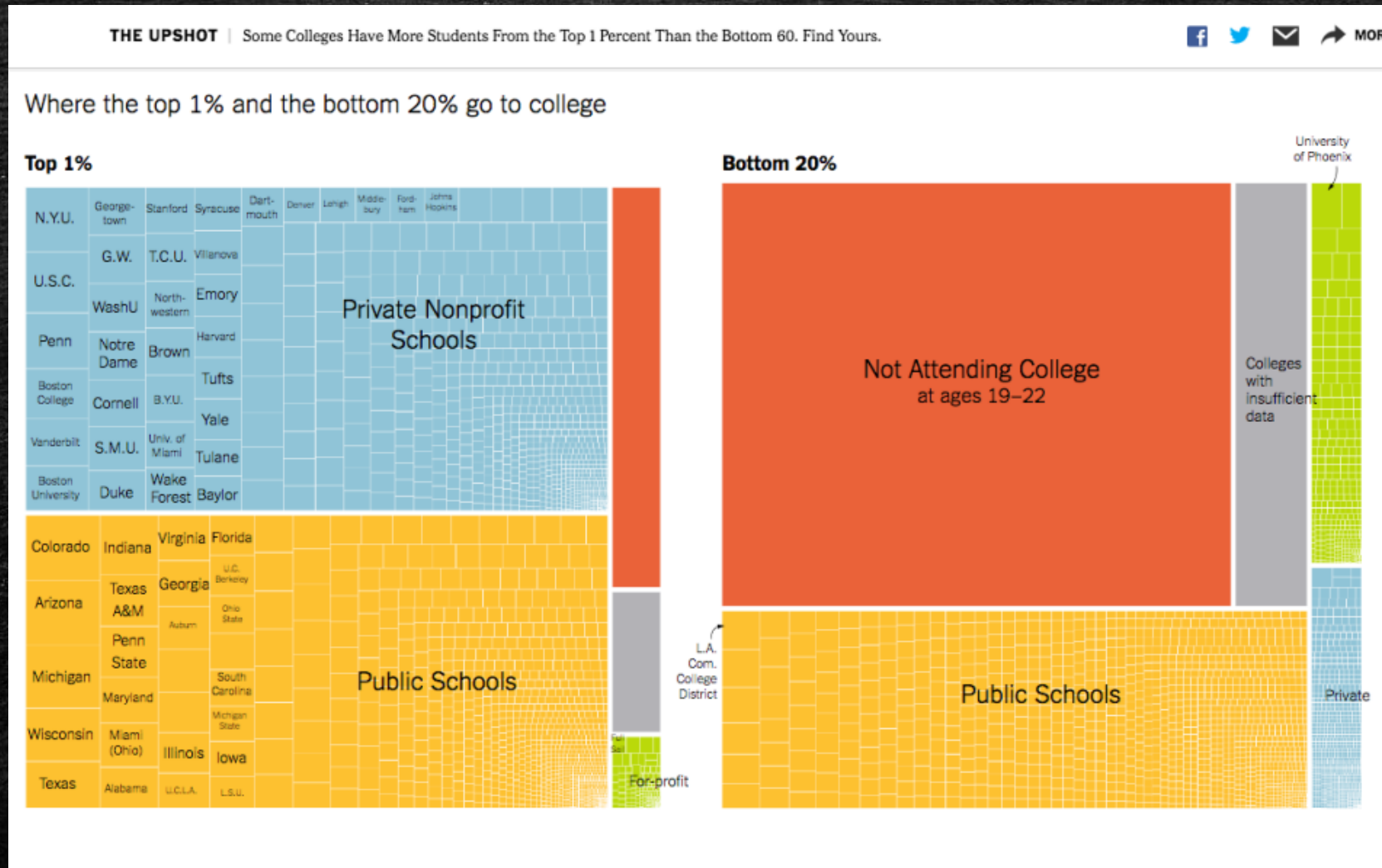
PELL ELIGIBLE

■ Transfer ■ FTNC ■ First Gen



Income Stratification

DOES COLLEGE “LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD” OR PRODUCE MORE STRATIFICATION?



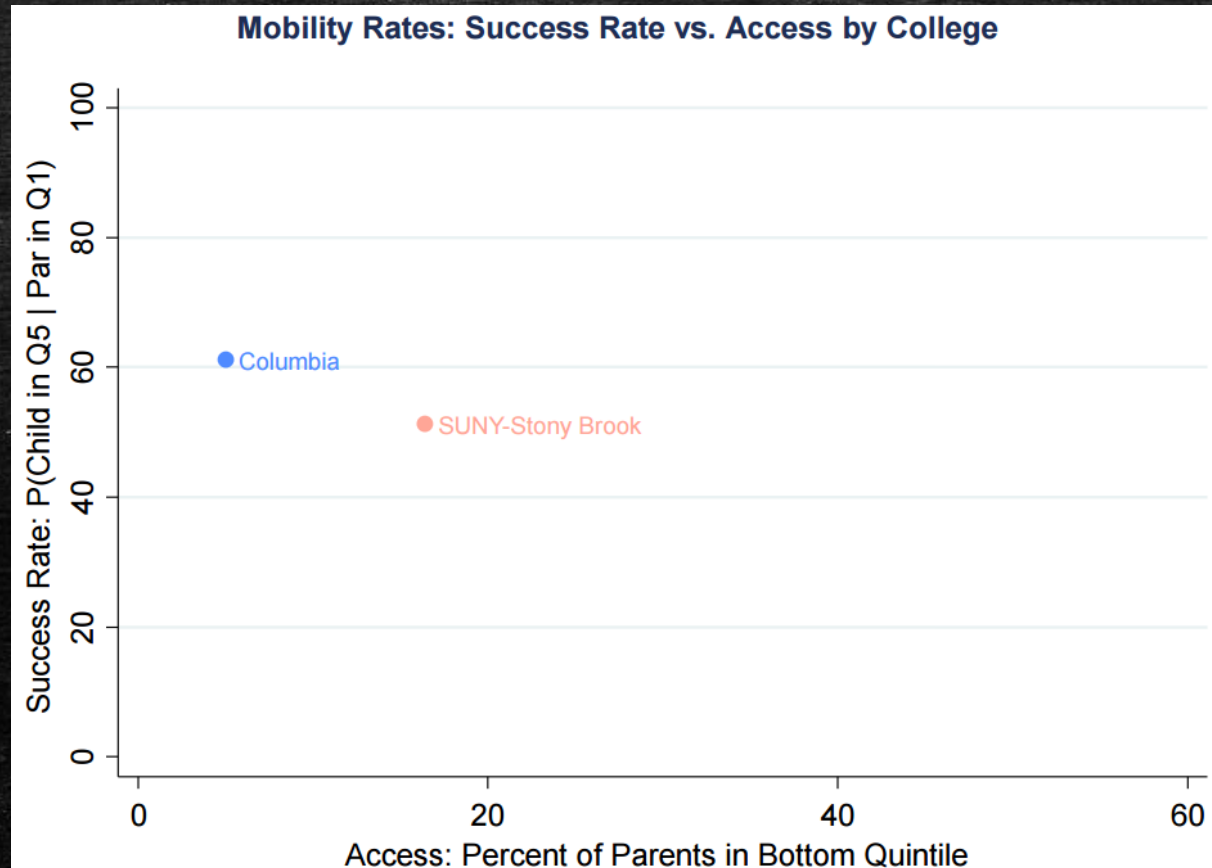
New Data rates on Mobility by Institution

- Define a college's *mobility rate* (MR) as the fraction of its students who come from bottom quintile and end up in top quintile

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Mobility Rate} & = & \text{Success Rate} & \times & \text{Access} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ P(\text{Child in Q5 \& Parent in Q1}) & & P(\text{Child in Q5} | \text{Parent in Q1}) & & P(\text{Parent in Q1}) \end{array}$$

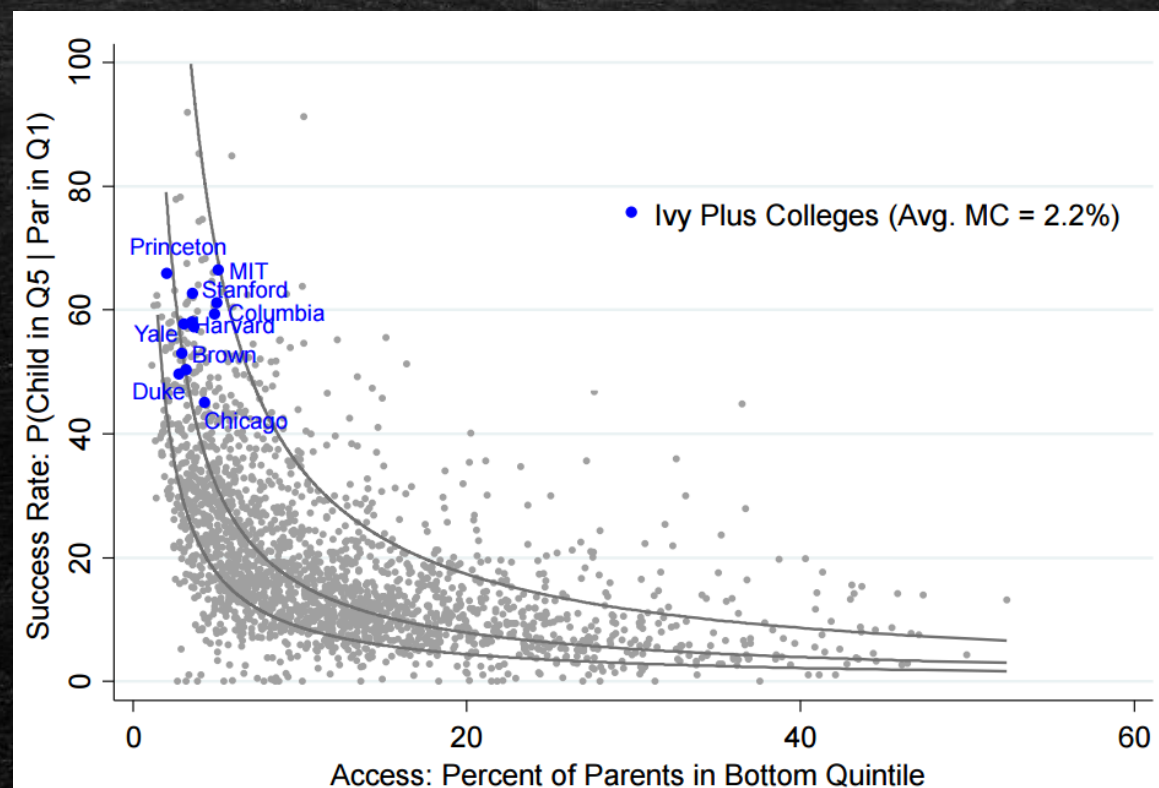
- E.g., SUNY-Stony Brook: $8.4\% = 51.2\% \times 16.4\%$
- The mobility rate should be interpreted as an accounting measure rather than a causal effect

Mobility rates: Success Rate vs. Access by College



College vary in their effect on Social Mobility

IS THIS SURPRISING TO ANYONE?



Colleges vary in their effect on Social Mobility

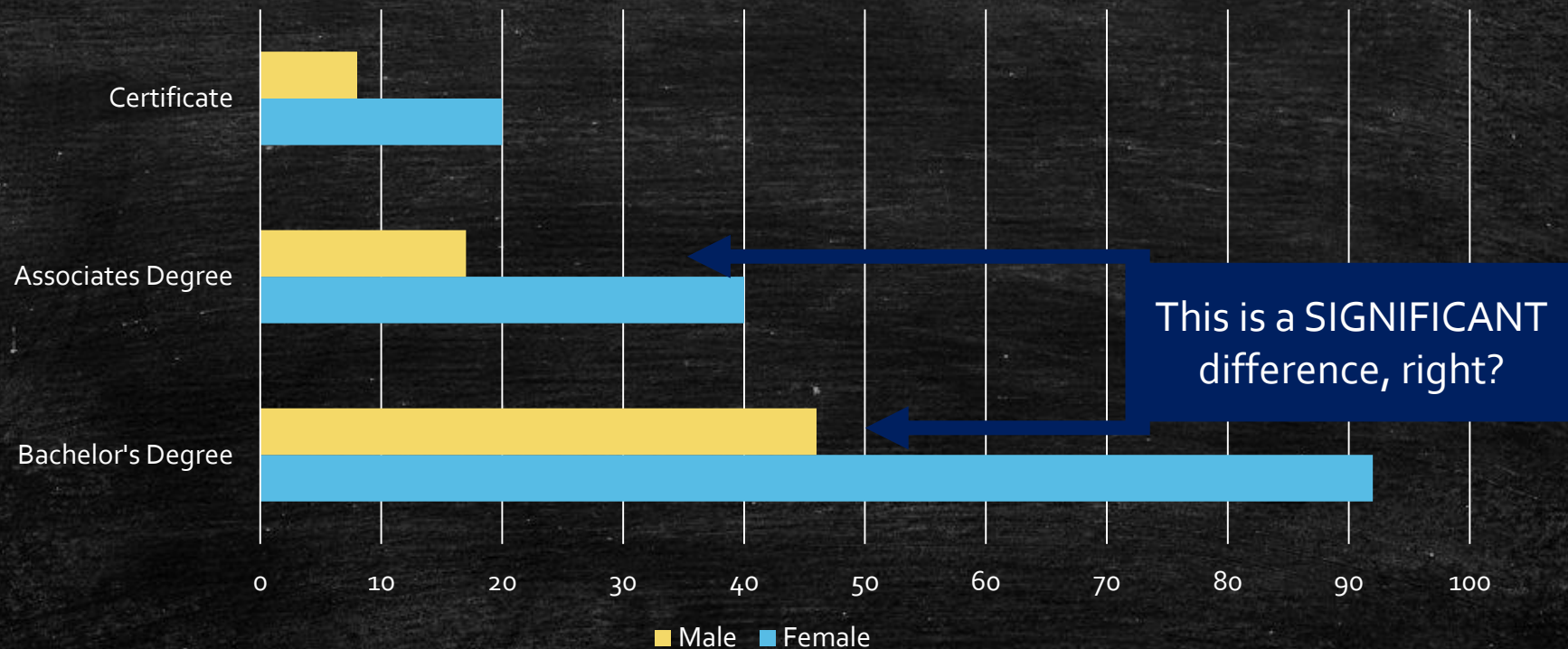
TOP MOBILITY REQUIRES ACCESS + SUCCESS

- HSI
- Public

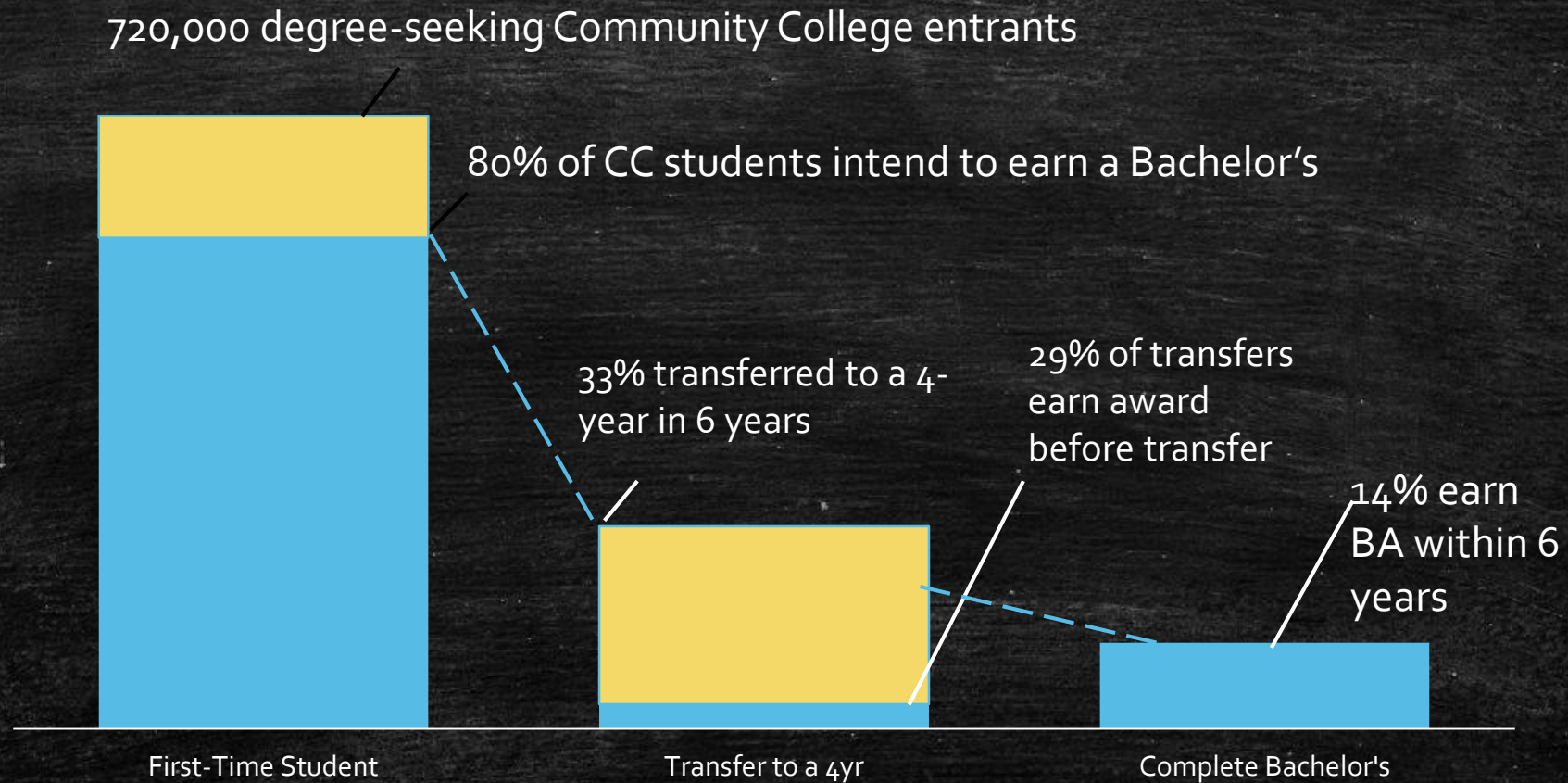
Top 10 Colleges by Mobility Rate (Bottom to Top 20%)				
Rank	Name	Mobility Rate	= Access x Success Rate	
1	Cal State University – LA	9.9%	33.1%	29.9%
2	Pace University – New York	8.4%	15.2%	55.6%
3	SUNY – Stony Brook	8.4%	16.4%	51.2%
4	Technical Career Institutes	8.0%	40.3%	19.8%
5	University of Texas – Pan American	7.6%	38.7%	19.8%
6	CUNY System	7.2%	28.7%	25.2%
7	Glendale Community College	7.1%	32.4%	21.9%
8	South Texas College	6.9%	52.4%	13.2%
9	Cal State Polytechnic – Pomona	6.8%	14.9%	45.8%
10	University of Texas – El Paso	6.8%	28.0%	24.4%

Lifetime Earnings

COMPARED TO HIGH SCHOOL ONLY



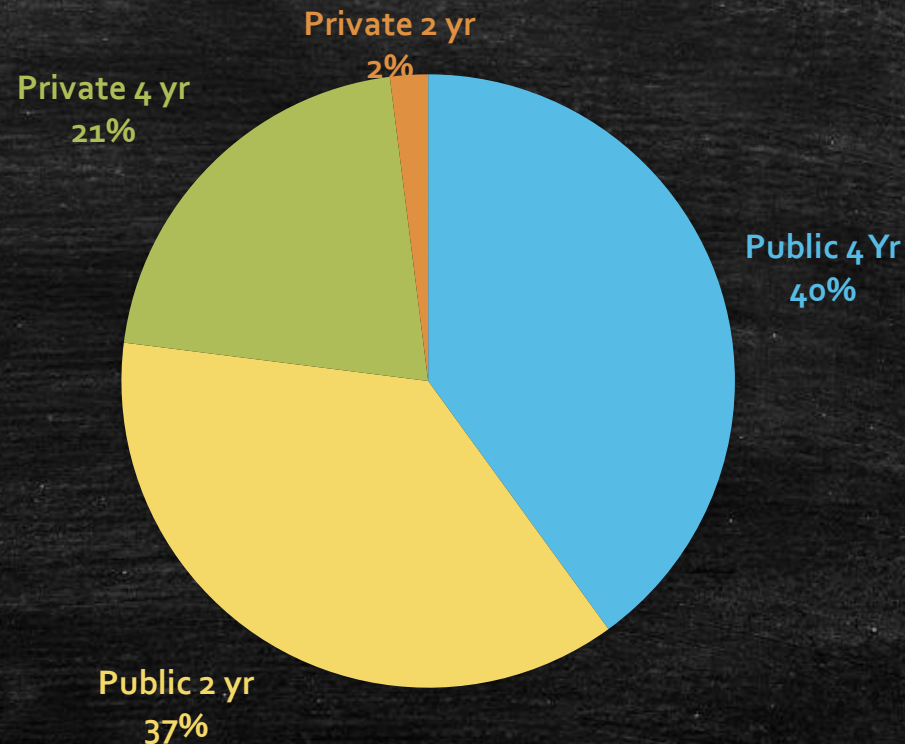
Few Transfer, Less Complete



Fall 2014: 2.9 Million First-time Degree-seeking Students

Potential of Transfer to increase Social Mobility:

- Community Colleges accounted for 37% of all new students starting college in the fall of 2014
- Approximately 80% intend to transfer and earn a bachelor's degree



MYTH 5: FGTS are more financially savvy and receive more monetary benefit from higher education

MYTH BUSTED

We need **better data** to track institutional and state outcomes

- Performance funding systems reward for graduation and retention, unintended consequence might put FG at risk.
- Transfer and FG students systematically overlooked in federal reporting as well, although this is changing (now recorded in Missouri).
- Much of the research on transfer focuses on student-level experiences and less on institutional structures, policies, and partnerships which support student success

Discussion and Questions

Contact Information

Tara Benson

Associate Director Plaster
Student Union/Director of
Student Engagement

TBenson@missouristate.edu

(417)836-4386

Devon Wright

Assistant Director of Student
Engagement for Transfer Student
Programs

DevonWright@missouristate.edu

(417)836-4386

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