

ADVANCING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

April 2, 2020

Stony Brook University

- One of SUNY's four university centers
- Top 40 Public University
– *U.S. News & World Report*
- Member of Association of American Universities (AAU)
- 26,576 total students, 17,166 undergraduates
- 94% of recent bachelor's recipients are either employed or enrolled in graduate/professional school



Stony Brook is making important strides in advancing student success by:

- Leveraging its resources toward increasing graduation rates while focusing on academic excellence for all students
- Using predictive analytics and data to provide an improved student success model for all students



Speakers

Charles L. Robbins, DSW, LCSW

*Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Student Success
Dean of the Undergraduate Colleges, Stony Brook University*

Rachelle Germana, PhD

Associate Provost for Academic Success, Division of Undergraduate Education, Stony Brook University

Richard Gatteau, PhD

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Stony Brook University

Moderator

Todd Bloom, *Managing Director of Western Governors University's WGU Labs and Impact Fund*



Charles L. Robbins, DSW, LCSW

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Student Success

Dean of the Undergraduate Colleges

Executive Director, Center for Changing Systems of Power

Stony Brook University

- Leads the University's efforts to improve graduation rates and the quality of the undergraduate academic experience
- Initial coordinator of SBU's engagement in UN Women's HeForShe campaign
- Former Associate Dean, SBU's School of Social Welfare
- Frequent speaker and a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine
- Research focuses on masculinities and gender as well as student success



Rachelle Germana, PhD

*Associate Provost for Academic Success, Division of Undergraduate Education
Stony Brook University*

- Leads a variety of divisional and University efforts around student success, including strategy and initiatives to support student transition, retention and graduation
- Taught in the gender studies program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
- Co-leads the regional effort on college readiness and transition for the Long Island Advisory Council on Higher Education



Richard J. Gatteau, PhD

Vice President for Student Affairs

Dean of Students

Stony Brook University

- Leads efforts to support student success outside the classroom, focusing on student engagement in campus life and experiential learning
- Joined SBU as Director of Academic Advising and later served as Associate Provost for Academic Success
- Strengthens efforts to build community, spirit and pride among SBU students

Project Commitment

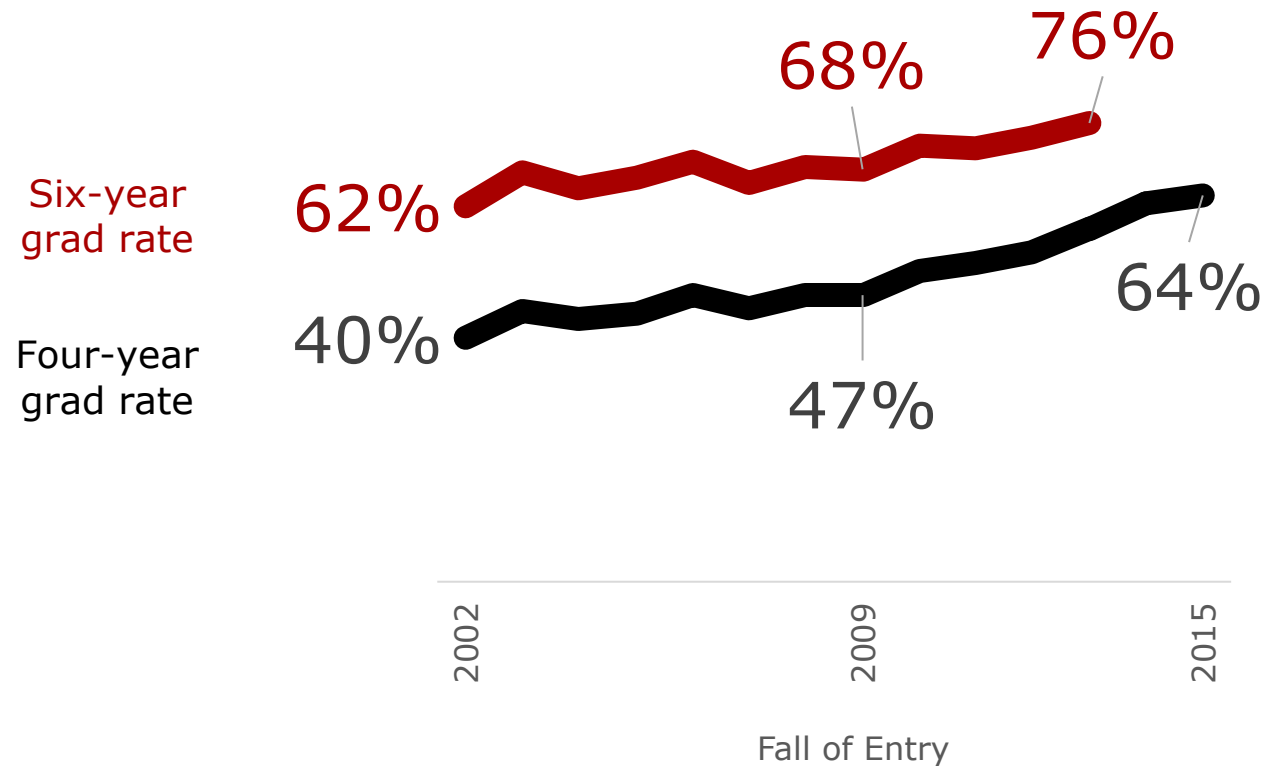
Goals

- Improve student outcomes
 - Retention
 - 4-Year graduation rate
- Improve quality of undergraduate experience

Values and Approach

- Student-centric
- Data-informed
- Evidence-based practices
- Predictive analytics
- Public health/population health model

Freshman graduation rates have increased 17 percentage points in the last six years



17 ↑
percentage point increase
in 4-yr grad rate over 6 years

Economic benefit to students

1,800

additional students graduated on time

\$125M

economic benefit to students

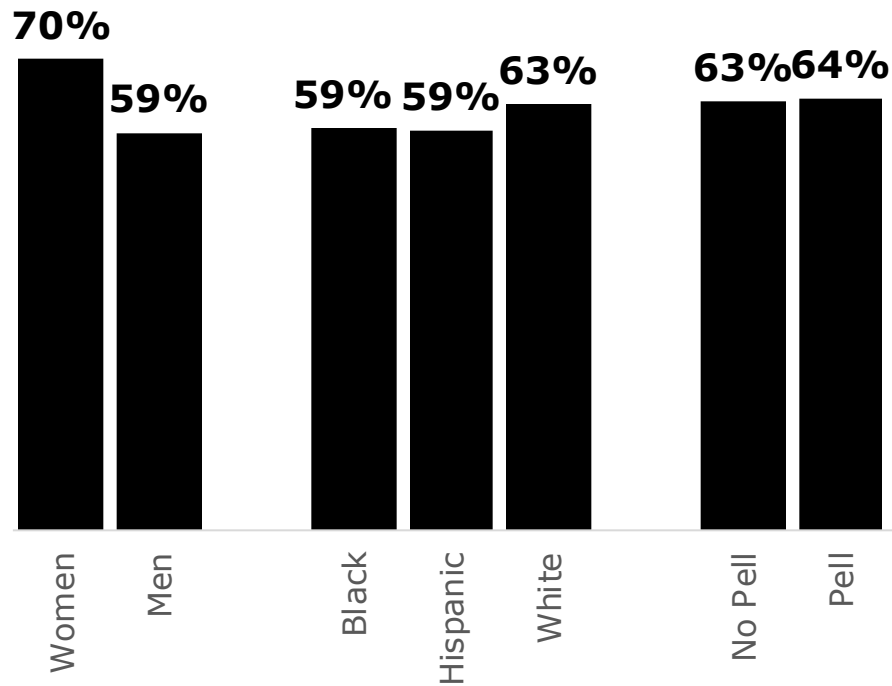
\$24 million saved in tuition & fees

\$101 million in additional earning capacity

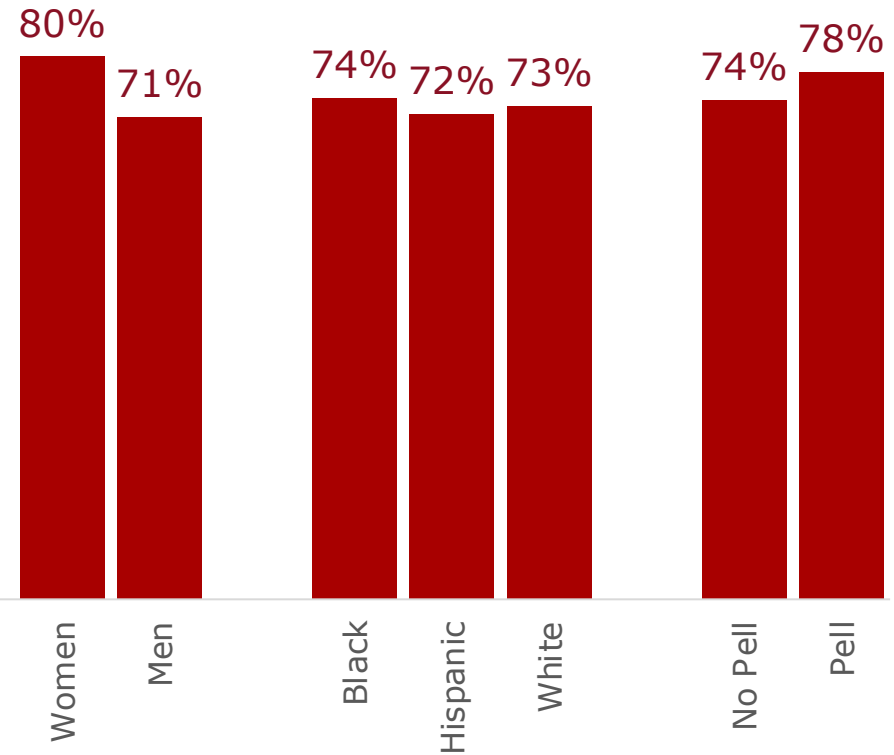


Equity gaps in graduation rates are largely closed

4-year grad rate
(2014 & 2015 cohorts avg)



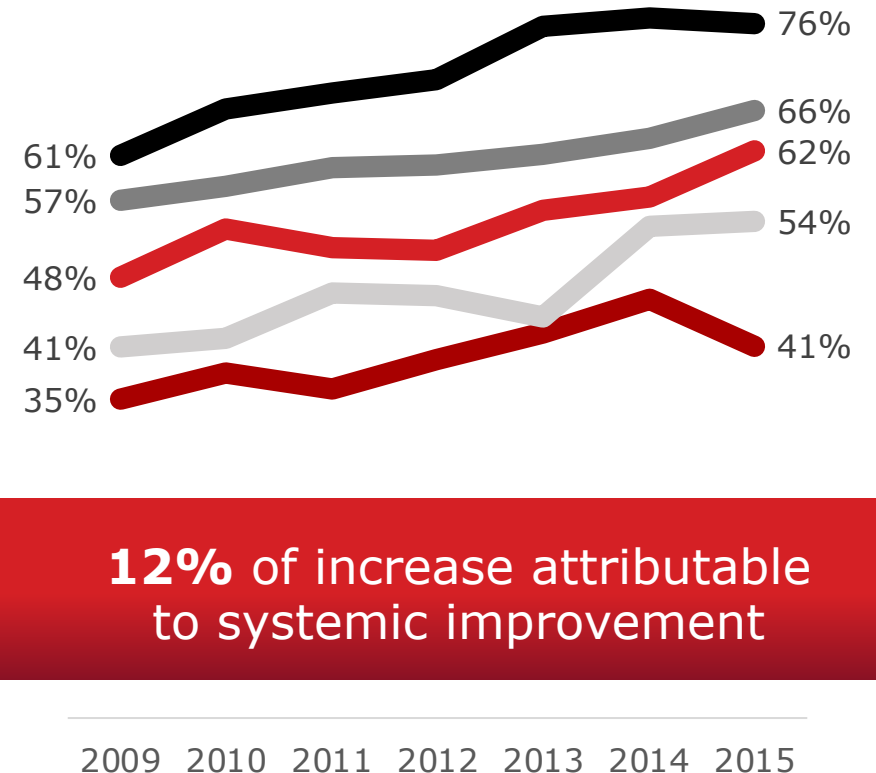
6-year grad rate
(2012 & 2013 cohorts avg)



Systemic improvement and higher academic profile contributed to the graduation rate increase

5% of increase attributable to higher academic profile

4-yr grad rates by HS GPA



12% of increase attributable to systemic improvement

Broad-Based Academic Success Team

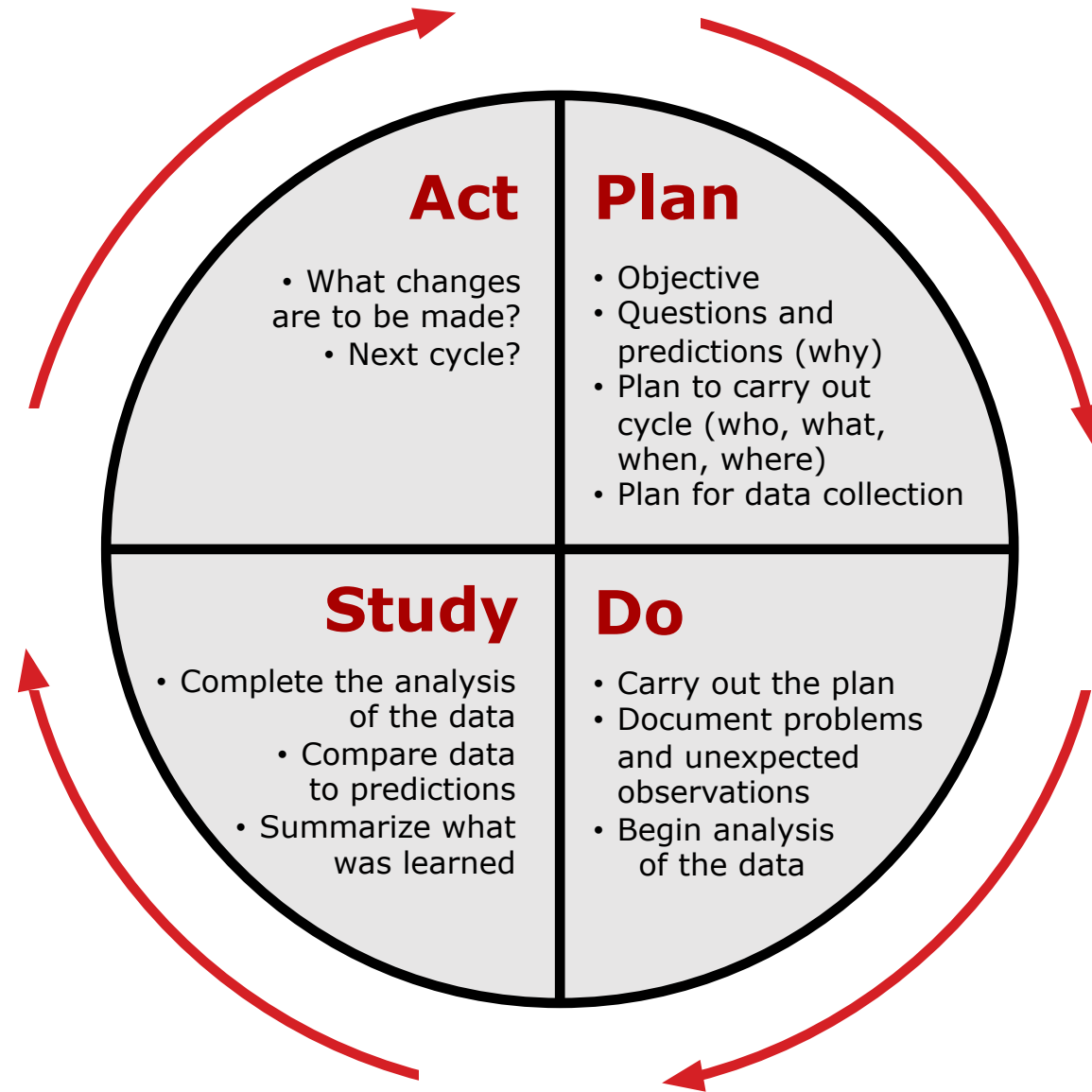
Systematic 360-degree review

- All policies and procedures affecting student success

Broad Representation

- Vice Provost UG Ed.
- Advising (all units)
- Bursar
- Career Center
- Deans Offices
- Enrollment Mgmt.
- Finance
- Financial Aid
- Information Technology
- Institutional Research
- Orientation
- Registrar
- Special Programs
- Student Affairs
- UG Colleges

PDSA Cycle for Learning and Improvement



The Plan, Do, Study, Act model developed by Arthur Deming (1950)

Improvements realized via multi-pronged approach

Academic Success Team

Inst. Research

- Expansion
- New mission

Analytics

- In-house
- 3rd-party
- Data accessibility

Academic Success and Tutoring Center

Policy reform

- Class retake
- Registration expectations

Finish in 4

- Mini grants
- Student-facing app

Segmentation

- Men
- GPA 2.0-2.5
- Behind in credits

Advising

- Expansion
- Focus on 3rd & 4th yrs.

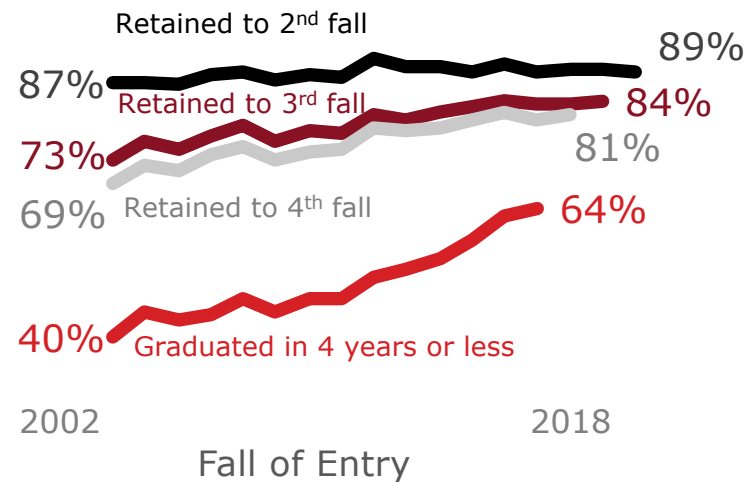
Courses

- Class availability
- High DFW classes
- Academic departments

Finish in 4 Initiative

Class Advisors

Advisors to students in 3rd & 4th years improved retention after the 2nd year and on-time graduation



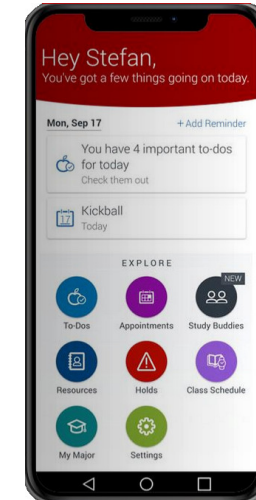
Mini-Grants

Mini-grants are made to seniors with unexpected financial need and a clear path to 4-year graduation

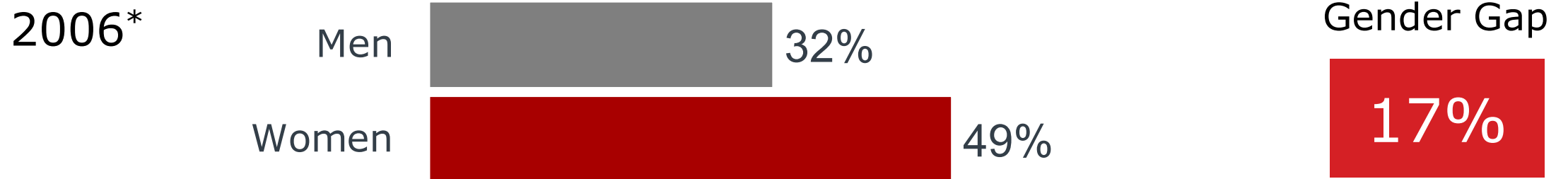
98%
Success Rate

Student Mobile App

Provides students with reminders, real-time alerts and planning tools



Four-Year Graduation Rates by Gender



Issues that emerged from the literature review/focus groups/interviews

Masculinity/Toxic masculinity & higher education

Emotional and developmental readiness – frontal lobe

Lack of focus

Inadequate academic preparation

Issues that emerged from the literature review/focus groups/interviews

Inability to deal with frustrations

Inability to delay gratification

Financial realities of higher education

Never previously experienced anything close to failure

Issues that emerged from the literature review/focus groups/interviews

Impact of alcohol and drug usage

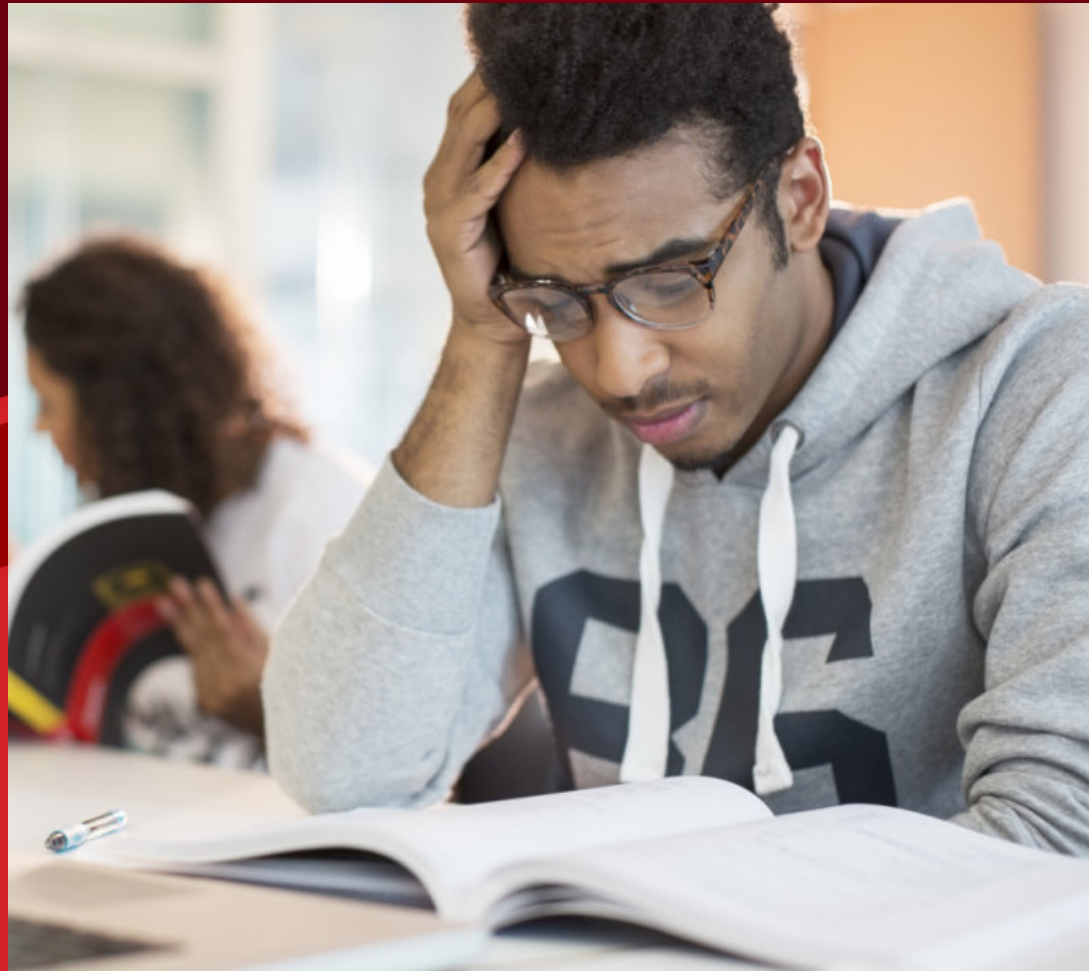
Immersive video games

Pornography and addictive masturbation

Inability and unwillingness to ask for help

Poor decision making

Who is a role model
for what it means to be
a full-hearted man
in the 21st Century?



Conclusions

Achievements

- 17 point increase in 6 years
- Improvement is in top 3 pct of 4yr institutions
- Most equity gaps closed

Full-Court Press

- Senior leadership commitment
- Annual investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars
- Implemented any initiative we could identify

Lessons Learned

- Change requires sustained effort
- No magic bullets
- Telling the story of “1001 Initiatives” presents challenges
- High tech/high touch

For More Information

stonybrook.edu | (631) 632-6000

Charles L. Robbins, DSW, LCSW

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Student Success and Dean of the Undergraduate Colleges
charles.robbins@stonybrook.edu

Rachelle Germana, PhD

Associate Provost for Academic Success, Division of Undergraduate Education
rachelle.germana@stonybrook.edu

Richard Gatteau, PhD

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
richard.gatteau@stonybrook.edu