

The Power of Partnerships

**Connecting-Achieving-
Succeeding**

**Student Success
Workshops: Logistics,
Components and Impact**

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Connecting-Achieving-Succeeding

Agenda

- Framing The Issue
- Logistics
- Components
- To What Effect? -
Measuring Impact
- Preliminary Results
- Sustainability and next
steps... a work in progress
- Students' views

Framing the Issue - Retention Framework

- A Partnership Approach - The Retention Framework
- Selected Flex Nursing
- Eight Objectives - Third objective: address ill-prepared; minimize syllabus shock; initiate connections



Framing the Issue - Objectives

1. Heighten student confidence
2. Strengthen academic preparedness
3. Facilitate student's transition
4. Nurture a student's sense of connection



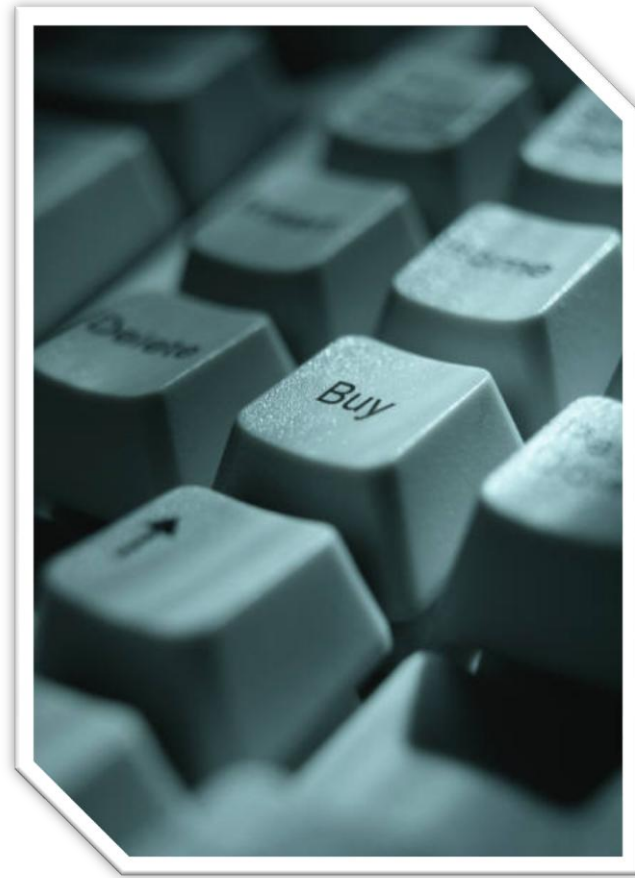
Framing The Issue - Delivery those Objectives To...

- Practical Nursing Diploma - Flex Routes
- Student Selection -
 - Email was produced and sent to all students (N=189)
 - 51/189 students (27%) expressed interest by return email; 21/189 (11%) attended



- Average Range – 17-58 - Work & Family
- Program had a high attrition low retention Rate - 2006 Intake
21/213 Participants for Fall 2009 Class (10%)
39/150 Participants for Winter 2010 Class (26%)

Logistics - Paying Close Attention To....



- Timing, location and length of Workshop
- Class Size
- Select Teaching Staff
- Group Dynamics
- Marketing The Workshop
- Make it Real
- Connect with the Industry
- Free!

Components

- **Design:** 5 Student Success Workshops were designed with the following themes
 - Introduction of role of PN, program, college and each other
 - Finding right information to prepare for assignments and to succeed in the classroom
 - Learning tips and identifying own learning style
 - Learning in action
 - Test taking strategies and connecting with RPNs in practice



“The greatest impact (on attrition) were lack of motivation to succeed, inadequate financial resources, inadequate preparation for college and poor study skills”

(Habley and McClanahan, 2004, p. 6)

To What Effect??- Measuring Impact

- Used weekly confidence survey
- Pre and post survey
- Assessed impact on learning and general experience
- Monitored attendance
- Hosted focus groups
- Reviewed the attrition and progression figures



Results – Pre and post test questionnaire

•When comparing pre- and post-workshop surveys students' confidence levels increased in categories of 'very confident' and 'extremely confident' (from 'not confident', 'not so confident' and 'confident' categories) in many areas including:

I will be successful in my academics

I know what plagiarism is and how not to plagiarize

I know what job I want when I complete this program

I know I want to be a Practical Nurse

I know how to find my way around the campus and the services available to me

I can maintain a good life/school balance

I will make friends quickly and easily

I can work effectively with my classmates

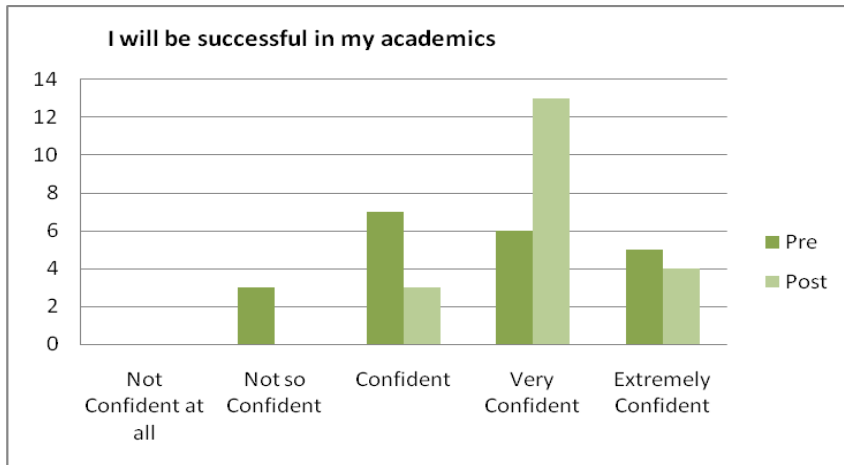
I know how to take good notes

I prepare well for upcoming tests and assignments

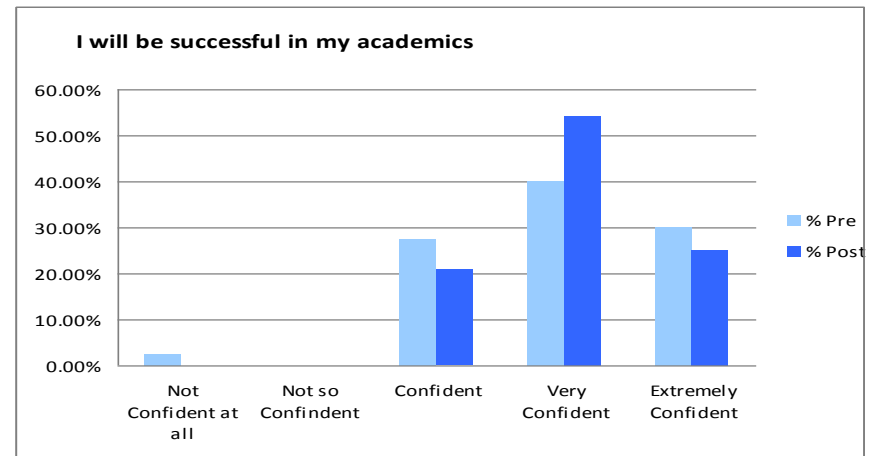
I know what is expected of me in a classroom

Impact on Learning Behaviours

Cohort #1



Cohort #2

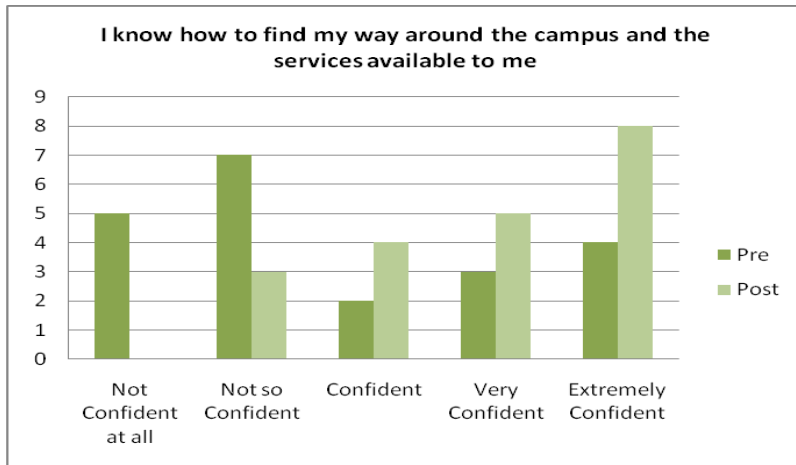


“... if you are prepared for something you do not have a phobia,”

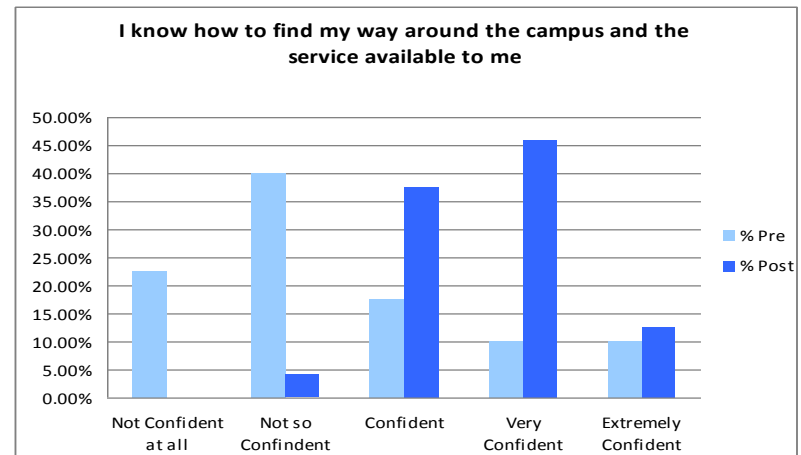
A Fall Workshop Participant

Impact on Student Experience (Familiarity)

Cohort #1



Cohort #2

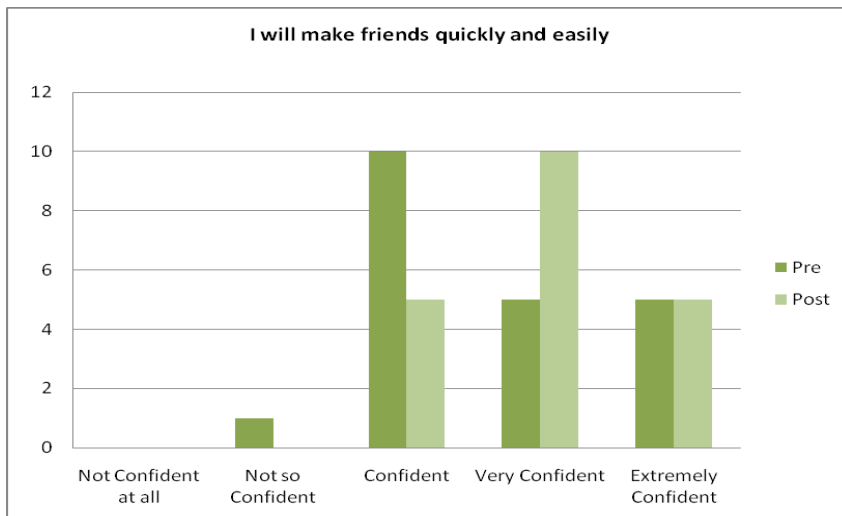


“The workshops hit the bulls eye by showing how to get all this information from the library so when we started the program it was easier for us, also they gave us heads up to counseling, and what is right here to help, bursary and the information forms, even pin pointed what time and the deadline.”

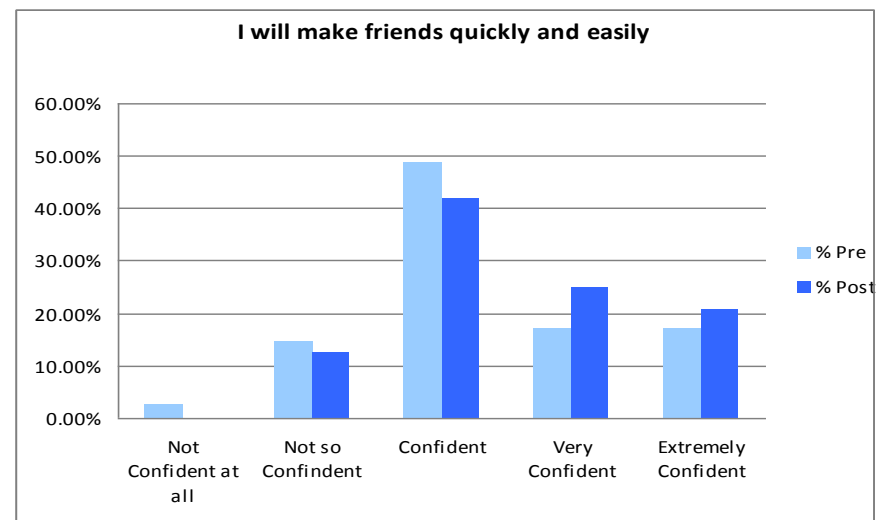
A Fall Workshop Participant

Impact on Student Experience (Connections)

Cohort #1



Cohort #2

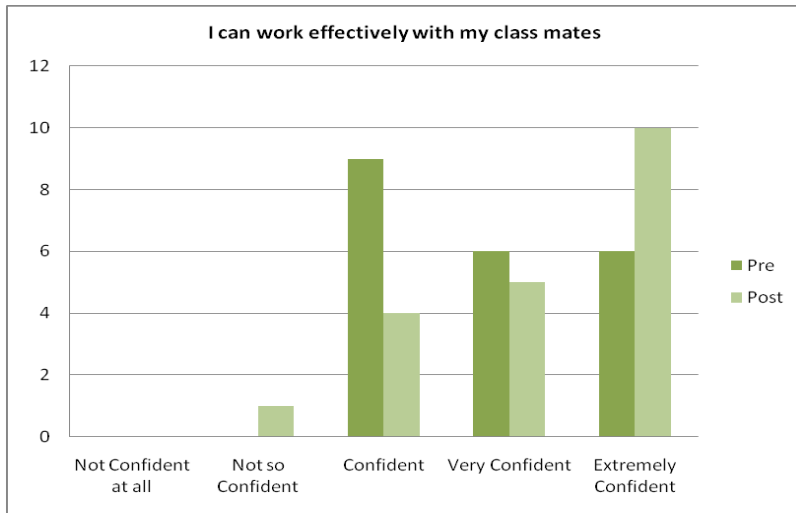


“I was worried, I thought it would be like high school all over again, I was not going to know anyone, but the workshops gave me away to meet new people and find out who was going to be in my class”

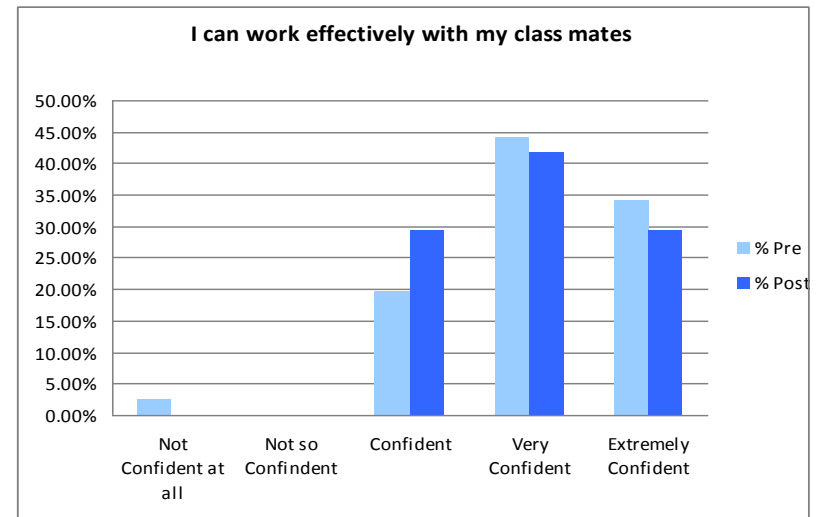
Fall Workshop participant

Impact on Student Experience (Connections – Familiarity)

Cohort #1



Cohort #2



"I like everybody's interaction with one another; very cooperative. This is a good start"

A Summer Workshop Participant

Results – Weekly Confidence Rating

- Students' perception of their confidence levels in succeeding in and graduating from their program indicated some variance dependent on the topic of the workshop.
- Generally scores increased in the higher categories (7 through 10) as they progressed from week 1 through to week 5.



“when I attended the workshops, I got to know people in the program, to meet teachers, and they gave us a tour, that boosted my confidence, more comfortable with the people...”

A Fall Workshop Participant

Results – Focus Groups

Cohort #1 and Cohort #2

Liked:

- Connections with peers and faculty
- Felt prepared for college life
- Familiar with course outline and readings to prepare early
- Aware of academic expectations
- Familiar with campus and student services
- Classmates in workshops and PN program

Changes:

- Focus on more than one course
- Getting to know more teachers and have them introduce their course



Preliminary Results – comparison of Cohort #1 and Non-participants

Comparison of Cohort #1 and Non-participants

18/21 Participants were registered S1

13 Progressed to Semester 2 (72%)

4 Repeated 1 Course (22%)

1 Suspension (6%)

0 Withdrawals (0%)

192 Non-participants

103 Progressed to Semester 2 (54%)

60 Repeated 1 Course (31%)

22 Suspensions (11%)

15 Withdrawals (8%)

Comparison of Cohort #2 and Non-participants

39 Participants

22 Progressed to Semester 2 (58%)

13 Repeated 1 Course (34%)

4 Suspension (10%)

0 Withdrawals (0%)

111 Non-participants

67 Progressed to Semester 2 (60%)

27 Repeated 1 Course (24%)

17 Suspensions (15%)

0 Withdrawals (0%)

Sustainability

- Continuing to offer C-A-S workshops on semester by semester basis
- Continue to strengthen evaluation techniques
- Disseminate our findings and best practices
- Extending workshops beyond students in the practical nursing program to those students confirming offers in the Child Studies department
- Next steps is to apply this to a greater student audience beyond the School of Community and Health Studies



What Our Students Had to Say...

"the workshops were very interesting and informative most of all I like the feeling it gives me to be at ease in the classroom settings and expectations"

"I am a shy person but doing workshops like these pushed me to be more outgoing"

"I learned that some myths about school were broken, so I can come to school with an open mind"

"Very informative. Feels like we have a head start compared to those who didn't attend the workshops"

"I got the sense that the staff here really wanted us to succeed, that was the overall feeling I got"

Summer and Fall Workshop Participants, 2009