A Framework for Reducing the Student Success Gap and Promoting Success for All

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Through a review of research in four disciplines, this report develops a conceptual model to guide policymakers, practitioners, and researchers in their efforts to reduce gaps in student success across income, class, and racial/ethnic groups. The model suggests that: 1) student success is a longitudinal process with 4 major transition points from college readiness to completion and that it requires coordinated policies and programs; 2) multiple theoretical approaches inform our understanding of student success; 3) student success is shaped by multiple levels of context so no one policy or program will improve success for all students; 4) different disciplines contribute varied perspectives on student success and the forces that shape it ; 5) multiple methodological approaches contribute to knowledge of student success so research which provides various perspectives and uses multiple methods should be supported; and 6) student success processes vary across groups, so there are different routes that may lead to success.