Efforts to improve first-year retention and graduation rates for underrepresented/marginalized students.

Kuh (2008) describes strong positive effects of participating in high-impact activities as measured by the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). Specifically, first-year students and seniors who participated in learning communities, service learning, study abroad, student-faculty research, and senior culminating experiences reported greater gains in learning and personal development.

The most powerful recommendation Kuh made in 2008 followed from a single conclusion: high-impact practices have a pronounced effect on the experiences of underserved students.
• First Year Seminars and Experiences
• Common Intellectual Experiences
• Learning Communities
• Writing-Intensive Courses
• Collaborative Assignments and Projects
• Undergraduate Research
• Diversity/Global Learning
• ePortfolios
• Service Learning/Community Based Learning
• Internships
• Capstone Courses and Projects
This presentation examines Lincoln University, Southeast Missouri State, and the University of Missouri’s efforts to improve first year retention and graduation rates for underrepresented/marginalize students. Each university will discuss and share practical steps, data driven, program ideas, strategies, and provide best practices that support student success for underrepresented/marginalized students.

**LEADERSHIP**
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Donell Young, JD MA
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Student Engagement & Success
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**SCHOLARSHIPS**
Trent Ball
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Academic Diversity & Outreach
Southeast Missouri State University
Lincoln University of MO overall demographics:
Ninety percent (90%) of our students are Pell Grant eligible
Student population is roughly 52% African-American, 48% Caucasian

LU MO Honors Program:
Average incoming ACT range of 18-23
Highly motivated and academically hungry
Lack some of the skills that would qualify them for other honors programs

Utilizing High-Impact Practices:
Living/Learning Community Model
- Health Allied
- Public Affairs
- Business/Computer Science
Honors first-year seminar
Conference and competition participation within cohorts
Internships, study abroad experiences, and capstone projects
The accomplishments of the current program, initiated in 2015, are instructive:

- First Cohort Graduates (May 2019): 82% graduation rate for the 4.5 year goal timeframe.
- 2016-2018 Cohorts: 100% of participants on track to graduate in the 4.5 year timeframe.
- Compared to LU overall:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LU Non-Honors Cohorts:</th>
<th>50% Retention</th>
<th>&lt;20% Graduation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015 Honors Cohort:</td>
<td>93% Retention</td>
<td>82% Graduation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Most earn Latin honors, become campus leaders, and enter prestigious internship and graduate programs.

Honors programs, generally, are credited for improving retention and graduation rates, increasing student engagement, and raising the level of academic interaction among all university students.

The Lincoln University Honors Program is specifically a gateway for our highly-motivated and high-achieving students to gain social mobility in a global environment in dire need of their perspectives and skills.
CASE Mission

The Center for Academic Success & Excellence (CASE) supports the educational achievement of underserved as well as underrepresented minority students through individualized attention and cohort – based programming. CASE intentionally recognizes students as scholars and promotes positive identity development that contributes to retention and graduation. The center also develops and maintains strategic partnerships with academic units to assist students as they navigate the transition into and through college.

Pillars for Success

- Academic Enrichment
- Career Development
- Financial Literacy
- Sense of Belonging
- Wellness
The CASE Scholars Program

**Summer Bridge**
- Enroll in Biology and Sociology
- Live on campus for 8 weeks
- Explore Learning Strategies
- Build Financial Literacy
- Explore Majors and Careers
- Create a success and wellness routine

**Freshman/Sophomore Experience**
- Weekly Workshops
- Study Hall and Tutoring Sessions
- Social Events
- Community Service Activities
- Mentoring by Upperclassman
- Network with Faculty & Staff

**Junior/Senior Experience**
- Job Readiness
- Internship and Study Abroad
- Alumni Mentors
- Test and Graduate School Prep
- Mentor Younger Students
- Network with Faculty and Staff

**1-Year Retention Rate**
- 96% CASE Scholar Average
- 87.9% MU Student Average

**Credit Hr. Accumulation**
- 33.3 Average Credit Hours

**Summer Bridge GPA**
- 3.55 Average
**PUMP (Peer Undergraduate Mentoring Program)**

- 23 Mentees
- 23 Mentors
- 3.63 Average Mentor GPA
- 3.55 Combined Mentee GPA
- 91% of Mentors Graduated or returned to Mizzou
- 100% of Mentees returned to Mizzou

**Math @ CASE**

- 105 Students
- 268 Visits
- All tutors including faculty and Graduate Students were volunteers
- Dr. Steven Goldschmidt led sessions for Math 1300 and 1400 in the Fall & Spring
- PhD Candidate Alyssa Genschaw led a group of Graduate Student Volunteers who offered sessions for Math 1050, 1100, 1160, 1500 & 1700

**Science@CASE**

Free Chemistry 1320 (Chem 1) Tutoring
Academic Support Centers’ mission is to enhance the academic achievement and educational attainment of all Southeast students.

- The Centers include targeted supportive services for underrepresented populations (first generation, low-income, students with disabilities and U.S. ethnic minority students) and academically at-risk students.
- The programs span from pre-college to undergraduate and graduate studies.
- Southeast Missouri State University partners with community-based college access programs to help college ready students transition successfully into college and earn their degrees.
- Southeast offers academic support, mentoring and scholarships to students who are eligible and participate in these programs.
- The awards are competitive and include an interview process.
Academic Support Centers’ have developed a series of programs to provide funding and support to our targeted student populations.

- Scholarship Clinics with Student Financial Services and The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis
- Academic Support Centers’ Mentoring Program (AMP): 55
- ASC Matching Success/Merit Awards: 175
- ASC Textbook Awards: 175
- College Access Partnership Award (CAP-A): 60+
- Dr. Donald A Suggs Scholarship (Suggs): 1 Annually (4)
- EAP/TRIO Awards: 25-30
- INROADS (Internship Award): 5
- Summer Assistance: 50+