PASS

Promoting At-Promise Student Success

PASS Quickstart Guide for Campus Leaders

The **Promoting At-promise Student Success (PASS)** project is a longitudinal, large scale research-practice partnership that has been underway for ten years. PASS research provides insights into how to shift campus culture to improve sense of belonging, mattering, well-being, and major and career confidence for students through a research-based approach called *ecological validation*.

Below, please find a few key resources to orient campus leaders to the project including key research findings and recommendations for practice.

Here are a few key resources to get you started

- **PASS Project Explained**—3-minute video overview of the PASS project
- **Creating a Culture of Ecological Validation**—6 page brief with key terms
- **Overview of Ecological Validation**—5-minute video about a key concept related to student support that was developed as a result of analyzing robust, longitudinal, mixed methods of data about at-promise students' experiences at 3 University of Nebraska campuses
- **Considering College Students as 'At-promise'**—a brief explaining the rationale behind using the term "at-promise" as an asset-based way to refer to students. For an academic article advocating for the use of the asset-based term, please see **The Possibilities and Precautions of Using the Designation "At-Promise" in Higher Education Research**
- **Professional Learning Communities**—webpage contains information about running a cross-functional group that learns about approaches to supporting at-promise students and enacts changes accordingly

For further exploration

- **Creating a Campus-Wide Culture of Student Success An Evidence-Based Approach to Supporting Low-Income, Racially Minoritized, and First-Generation College Students** (Routledge Press)—book describing evidence-based strategies to create a campus culture conducive to supporting students by proposing a realignment of existing initiatives to create campus-wide support through a new model of coordination
- **Practice** page on the **PASS website**—houses practice briefs on a variety of topics ranging from proactive advising to peer mentoring to supporting learning about professionalism in ways that resonate with at promise students

Table 1: Incremental and Transformational Change

	Transformational Change	Incremental Change	Incremental Transformation
Where Leadership Comes From	Top-down leadership or externally forced change	Middle- or ground-level leaders working within their own unit	Middle-out or ground-level in a group (cross-functional)
Unifying Mechanism	Strategic plan and/or revised mission	None	Collaborative cross-functional group
Systems or Aspects of Changed (Scale of the Change)	Alters system	Within existing system (unit or individual practitioner level)	Changes system but as an aggregate of small changes