During the week of Oct. 17-21, 2016 The **I Will Graduate Committee** hosted a “College Success Week” offering a multitude of activities for students to attend. These activities focused on providing students opportunities to learn about programs, strategies, and information from instructors as well as current and former EMCC students to assist them in developing strategies to be successful college students. Students were given a survey at the end of each activity to determine if the activity had a positive impact on students perceived outcomes of retention, persistence, and completion.

The following activities were a part of College Success Week:

**University Transfer Fair:** This allowed students the opportunity to visit with college and university representatives and learn about programs, degrees, and scholarship opportunities.

**Desserts with Faculty:** Students had the opportunity to mingle with instructors, ask questions, and enjoy some treats.

**Your Life! Your Success!:** This presentation offered skills to help students learn to balance school, work, and life.

**Veteran Student Experience Panel:** EMCC veteran students shared their experiences with others as well as strategies and resources available at EMCC.

**Returning Student Panel**: Former EMCC students shared their tips and techniques with current EMCC students on how to be successful in the college environment.

The I Will Graduate Committee assessed the College Success Week events with a survey. The same survey was implemented for each event/workshop.

The following are the combined results for all of the events/workshops.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Question | % of students who agreed or strongly agreed |
| This workshop/event met my purpose for attending. | 90.74 |
| The information at this workshop/event was helpful and/or valuable. | 93.21 |
| This workshop/event will help me to complete a certificate or degree. | 68.15 |
| This workshop/event will help me stay in school. | 78.48 |
| This workshop/event will help me successfully complete my courses. | 78.61 |

When looking at the combined results, the responses focusing on persistence, retention and completion have lower percentages in comparison to other questions. The responses for these questions varied across the type of workshop. The workshops that were structured more on completion and graduation had higher scores on those questions than the events that did not have a structured focus on completion.

The following are results for specific workshops that focused more on completion and graduation.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question | Life Success Workshop | Alumni Panel Workshop | Combined Results for all events |
| This workshop/event will help me to complete a certificate or degree. | 96.00 | 75.61 | 68.15 |
| This workshop/event will help me stay in school. | 96.00 | 78.05 | 78.48 |
| This workshop/event will help me successfully complete my courses. | 96.00 | 80.96 | 78.61 |

In conclusion, the data suggests that targeted student success programs and services tend to have a positive impact on student’s perceived outcomes of retention, persistence, and completion. The difference across topics of the College Success Week (CSW) workshops help to inform planning of future CSW events to ensure that learning objectives are yielding intended outcomes for students. A future suggestion for closing the loop may be to have pre/post assessments to determine the extent to which CSW programming moves the needle on students’ perceived retention, persistence, and completion outcomes.