

The logo of Valencia Community College is a diamond-shaped emblem. It features a central shield with a red and white striped field, topped by a blue crest with a white bird. The shield is surrounded by ornate, golden scrollwork. The words "VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE" are written in a golden, serif font around the perimeter of the diamond, with the year "1967" at the bottom. The entire logo is set against a light beige background.

# BRIDGES To Success

*Valencia Community College*

*Orlando, FL*



# Purpose

- Opportunity to begin college level work summer following completion of senior year
- Summer without cost (scholarship)
- Individualized personal attention from faculty to assist in making a successful transition from high school to college
- Build leadership skills through community service and extra-curricular workshops



# Financial Support

- Scholarship program that comes from the financial aid fee
- Students are required to apply for financial aid to maximize eligibility for funding
- Provides tuition and books for up to three years
- Must be making “satisfactory progress” according to the federal financial aid regulations
- BRIDGES requires 75 percent course completion and a 2.5 GPA



# Evolution

- Target Population
  - Then: Increasing the enrollment of African Americans
  - Now: Expanded to include Hispanic
- Enrollment:
  - Then: Began in 1985 with 35 students
  - Now: Increased several times, now 230 students
- Staff:
  - Then: John and a work study
  - Now: John, 2 PT advisors, 1 PT staff assistant and 1 FT staff assistant
- Campus Involvement:
  - Then: West & later Winter Park
  - Now: West, East, and Osceola

# Recruitment and Enrollment Strategies

- Then:
  - Originally designed to support CROP
    - Primary feeder for the program
    - CROP students given priority
  - Recruitment from high schools
    - Jones , Evans, and Oakridge identified because of large African American populations
    - CROP grant paid for recruiters in the high schools
  - Responsible for all recruitment efforts for minority students



# Recruitment and Enrollment Strategies

- Now:
  - Feeder programs
    - All pre-collegiate or Valencia connected programs
    - Partner (over 60 organizations) with programs doing similar work with at-risk students
  - Recruitment from high schools
    - Jones , Evans, and Oakridge still target schools, but now including other schools to include more low-income and first generation students
    - Transitions department now responsible for recruitment and enrollment



# From Recruitment to Retention

- Recruitment was low but also losing a lot of students
- Focus group and survey
  - Could not find the support they needed when they needed it
  - Issues with satisfaction of services provided
  - Problems with faculty interaction
- Targeted BRIDGES to implement an intensified support program





# Support Strategies

- Faculty and Staff partnerships
  - Same faculty each summer
  - SLS 1101 & LinC SLS 2930/MAT0012 – SLS 1122/MAT 0024
  - Developed techniques for dealing with special populations
  - Early alert system, academic plan, progress report
  - Special academic advisors working directly with BRIDGES students
  - Financial aid specialist assigned to the BRIDGES program, “quick contact”



# Support Strategies

- Student Groups
  - During summer, put in support groups
  - Developed techniques for bonding and peer support
  - Activities in the summer to accumulate points
  - Group responsible for one another
  - Obligated to inform staff of absences and unresolved issues
  - Responsible for bringing in guest speakers
  - Two mandatory meetings per semester
- Online Community
  - ATLAS group
  - Communicate with each other and staff online
  - Post all deadlines and reminders
  - Instructed to check online at least 3 times a week



# Support Strategies

- Parental Involvement
  - Must bring a parent or guardian to orientation
  - Parents sign a contract committing to be involved in the program
    - Parent Advisory Committee, Volunteer Work, College Tour Chaperone, Guest Speaker List, etc.
  - Agree to take responsibility for ensuring student attendance and providing encouragement and support



# Support Strategies

- Familial Environment
  - Knew that students needed to have people they felt connected to
  - Created an office where students felt they had someone to turn to for help with their problems
  - This concept carried over into the BRIDGES program
  - Students gravitate towards the BRIDGES office
    - A place of support and comfort
    - Staff are more like family
    - Created an environment at the college that replicates the traditional cultural support centers in the community

# From Retention to Graduation

- Survey identified several areas of concern
- Funding
  - Extended scholarships beyond the second year
- Exposure
  - College Tour
  - Commitment from HBCU's to work with students
- “Counselors”
  - Part-time staff assistants serving as counselors
  - Academic Advisors



# Mentor Programs (African-American Male, Hispanic Female, and Female)

- Professional working at Valencia
- Second year students with first year students
- Provides:
  - Mentoring
  - Monthly Meetings
  - Leadership
  - Guest Speakers
  - Positive self-image
  - Community Service
  - Dress To Success



# Gender/Ethnicity

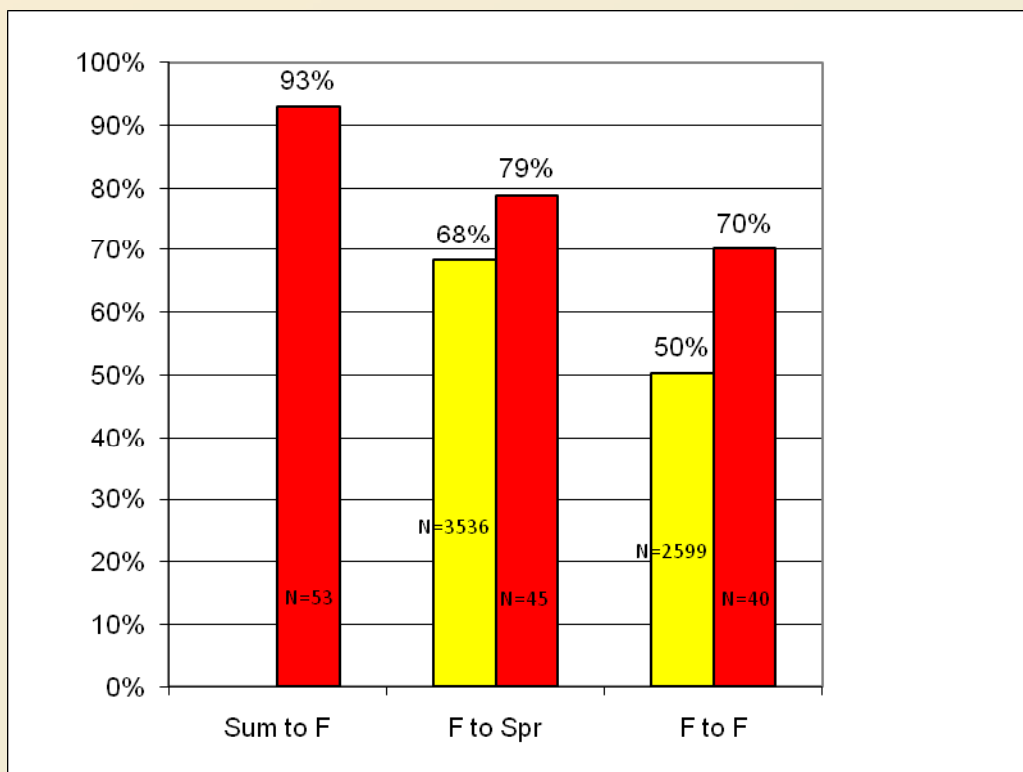
	Male	Female	Total
Caucasian	10	21	31
African American	87	213	300
Native American	0	1	1
Asian Pacific Islander	8	27	35
Hispanic	75	126	201
Other	20	46	66
Not Reported			3
Total	200	434	637

Pell Grant eligible 440 69%

# College Readiness for Summer 2008 Cohort:

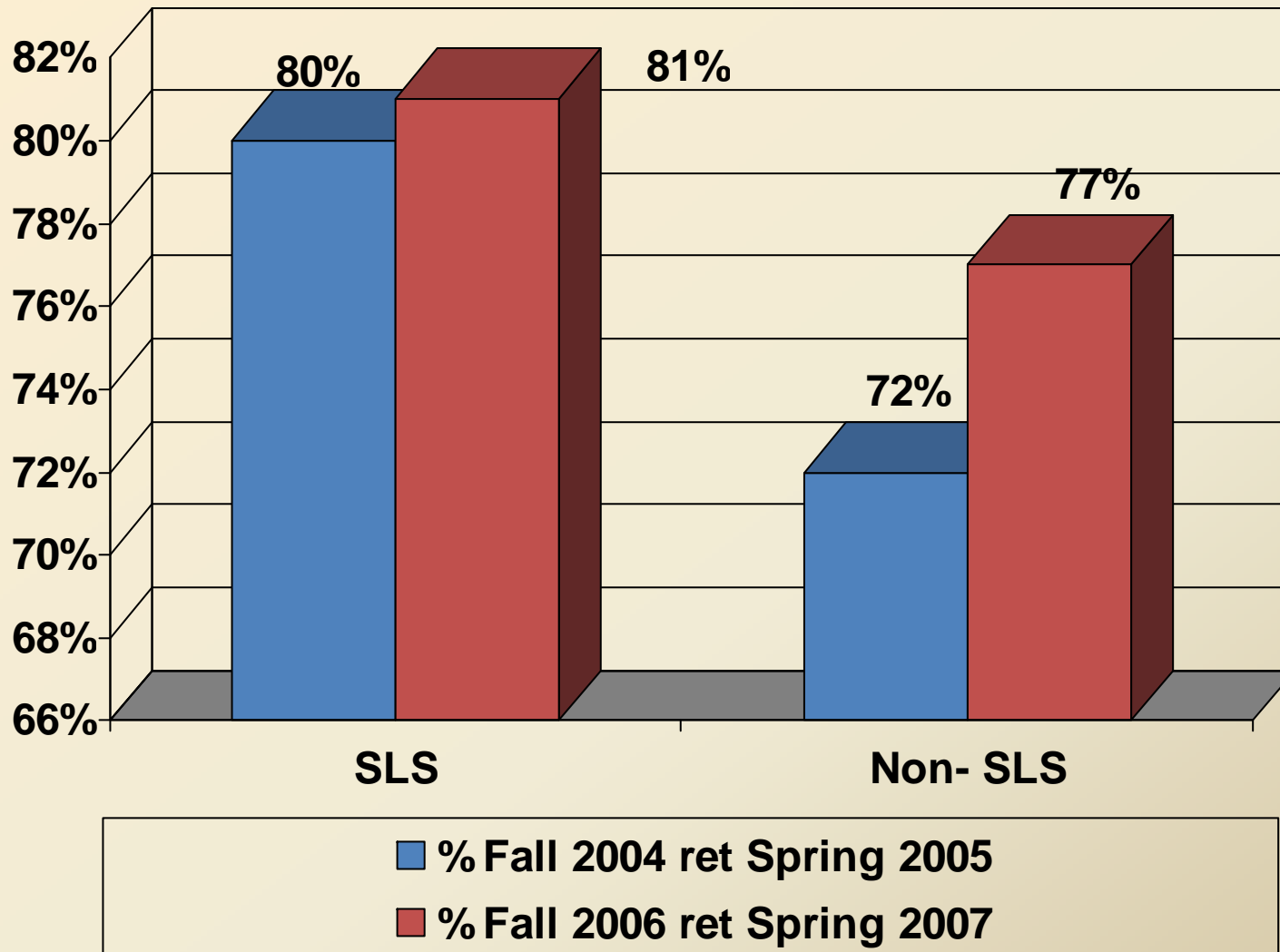
College ready	57	24%
Light Prep (1)	71	30%
Moderate Prep (2)	55	23%
Heavy Prep (3)	55	23%
Total	238	

# Retention of African American and Hispanic Males in Bridges Summer 2007 versus African American and Hispanic Males not in Bridges.



# SLS – Fall to Spring Retention Rates by “3 –prep” mandate Bridges to Success students

Fall 2004 and Fall 2006 FTIC Cohorts

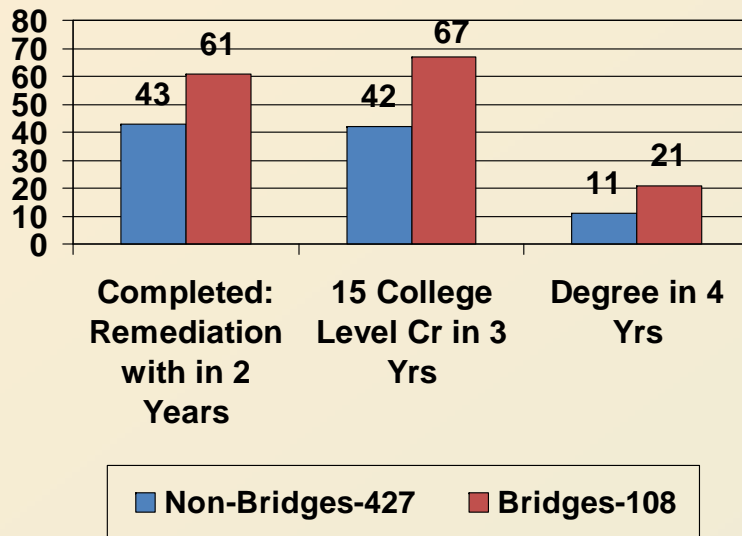


# Student Progression

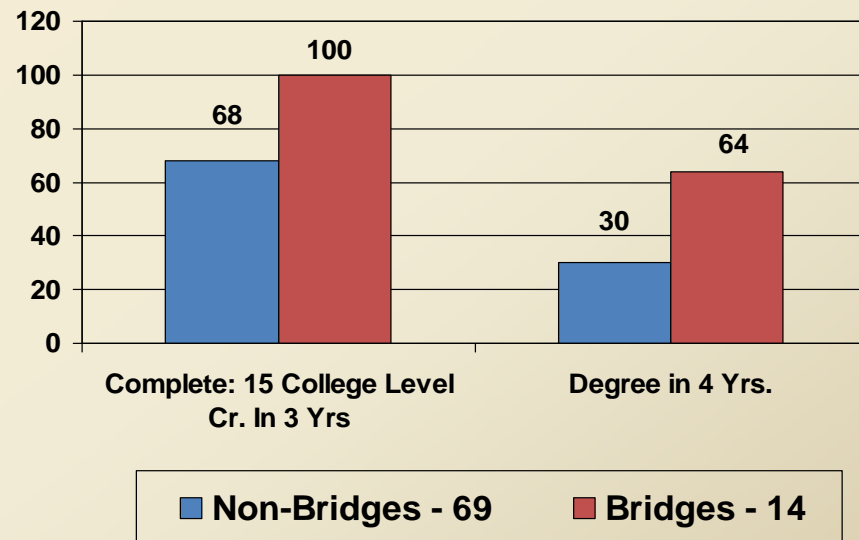
## Degree-Seeking FTIC

### Summer 2004 Cohort

Non College Ready



College Ready





# Questions ?

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