

Abstract

About Jarvis: Jarvis Christian University was founded to and 110 years later still remains, to educate the underrepresented. Recently, the University was approved by SACSCOC to offer master's degrees starting January 2023. The University is located in Hawkins, Texas and accessible to many cities within a thirty-mile radius. Pre-Covid-19, Jarvis enrolled an average of 800-900 students annually, with roughly 78-90% classified as Pell-eligible. For the fall 2022 semester, 76% of the student population is African American and 20% Hispanic.

Problem: In servicing the most vulnerable student populations as an access institution, challenges are naturally presented, notwithstanding the effects of COVID-19. Prior to the pandemic, several key initiatives were implemented that qualify as promising evidence by *What Works Clearinghouse*: summer programs, first-year experience courses and residential learning communities. While these initiatives facilitated a gradual increase in retention and graduation rates, the pandemic severely affected students in these populations. Since 2017, of all students enrolled, 60% or 912 remain stopped out and on average, stopped out at least 2.3 times. During the pandemic, 200-300 students stopped out, dropping the retention rate to 37%. For those enrolled, many are still struggling as 143 students have GPAs between 1.75 and 2.49.

Solution: This project will use \$3,418,794 to serve 275-350 under-resourced and underperforming currently enrolled and stopped out African American and Hispanic Pell-eligible students to ensure reenrollment, progression, completion, and employment. In responding to the **Absolute Priority 1 (AP1)**, this project demonstrates a rationale to improve success using a WWC strong evidenced based format, employing learning communities and success and reenrollment coaching in partnership with InsideTrack®. At the end of the project, it is expected that 60-70% of the students will reenroll and persist at an accelerated pace toward completion.