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Bridging Research Information & Culture

An RP Group initiative funded by the Hewlett Foundation

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What is the BRIC Initiative?

1. **Helping to streamline the work of institutional researchers**.
   - Efficiencies in data production enable greater conversations with practitioners around the use of information to foster student success.

2. **Offering statewide professional development.**
   - Resources that support the development of a culture of evidence and collaborative inquiry among a variety of practitioners.

3. **Providing the Technical Assistance Program (TAP).**
   - Customized technical assistance on data usage for 15 colleges, including site visits and remote support.

BRIC's Technical Assistance Program

- BRIC TAP aims to strengthen cultures of inquiry and evidence at 15 California Community Colleges

- We look to do so by identifying strategies and venues for increased collaboration between faculty, staff, researchers, and administrators

- In the end, our shared goal is to integrate information and data into practices that foster greater student success
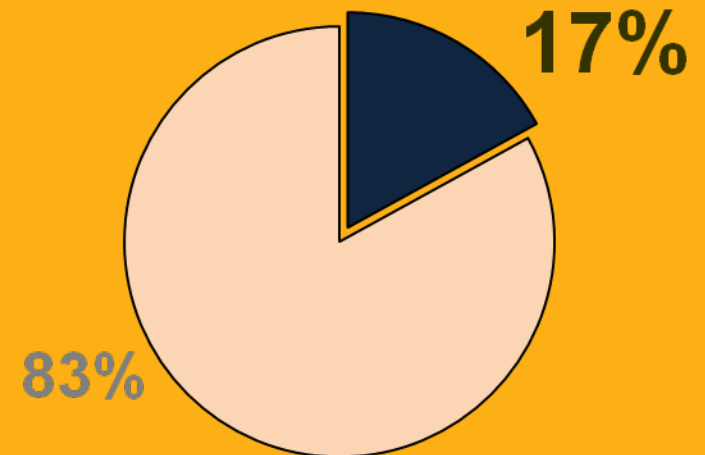
Data Usage

High Level of Involvement

Low or No Involvement
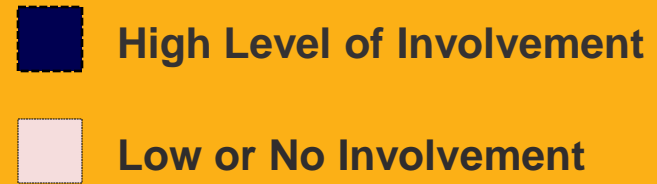
Chief Instructional Officer

18%

82%
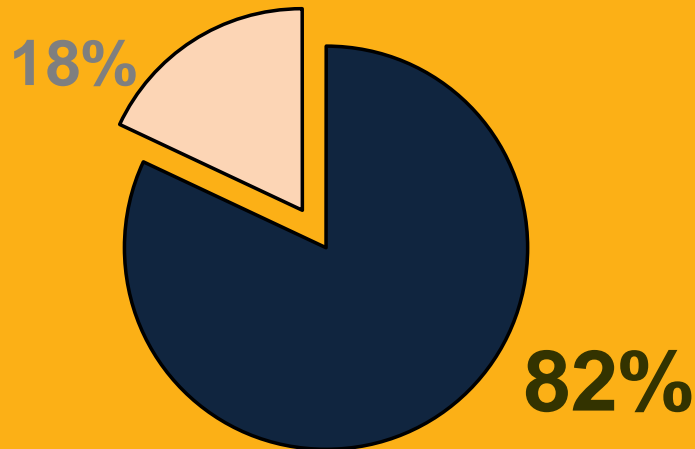
Classroom Faculty

17%

83%

Note: High Level of Involvement represent the sum of respondents selecting extremely involved or very involved in the survey. All other responses are included in Low Level or No Involvement. Data Source: BSOC Institutional Research Usage Survey (2009), Research & Planning (RP) Group of California.
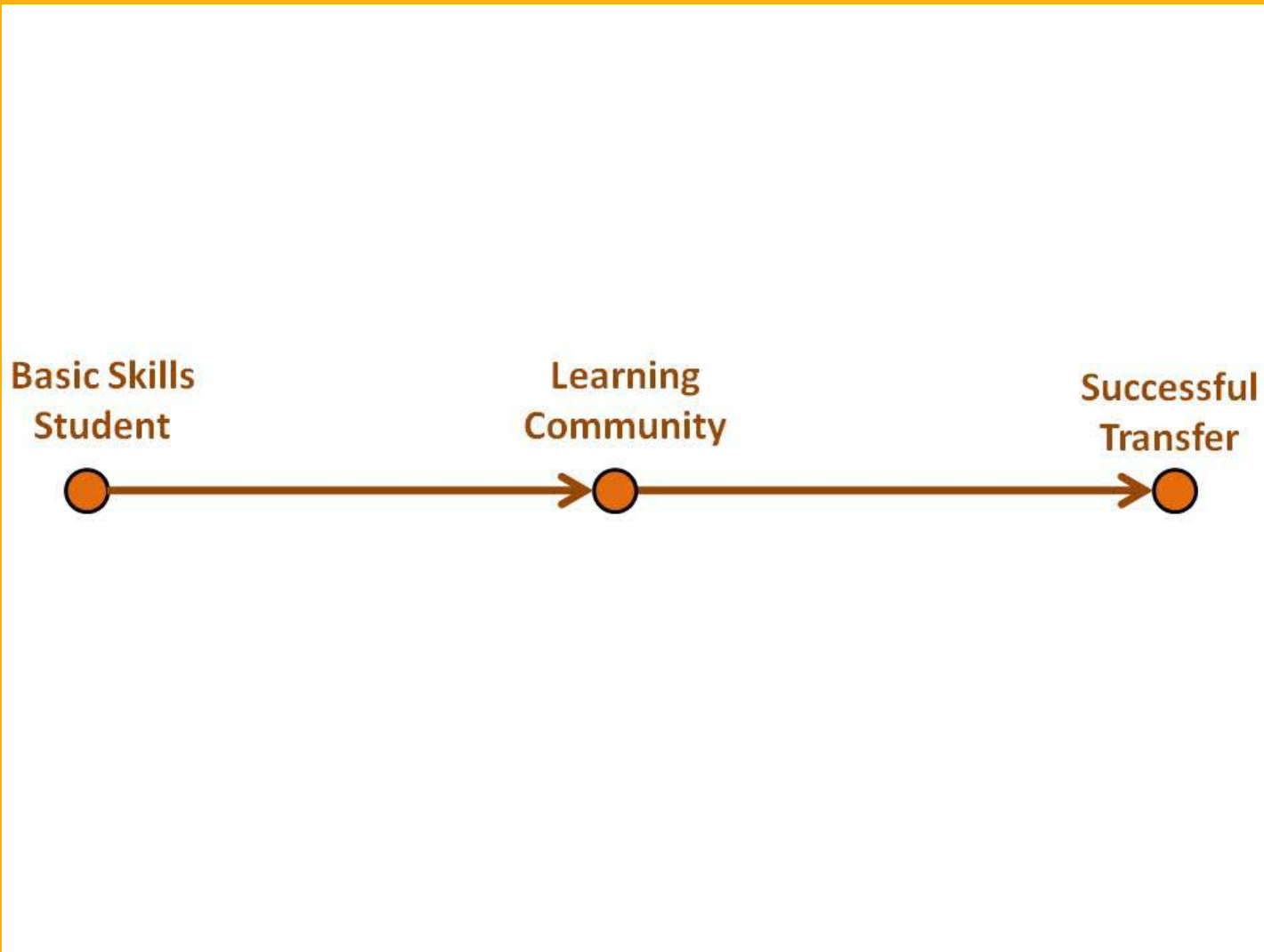
What is Our College's Transfer Rate?

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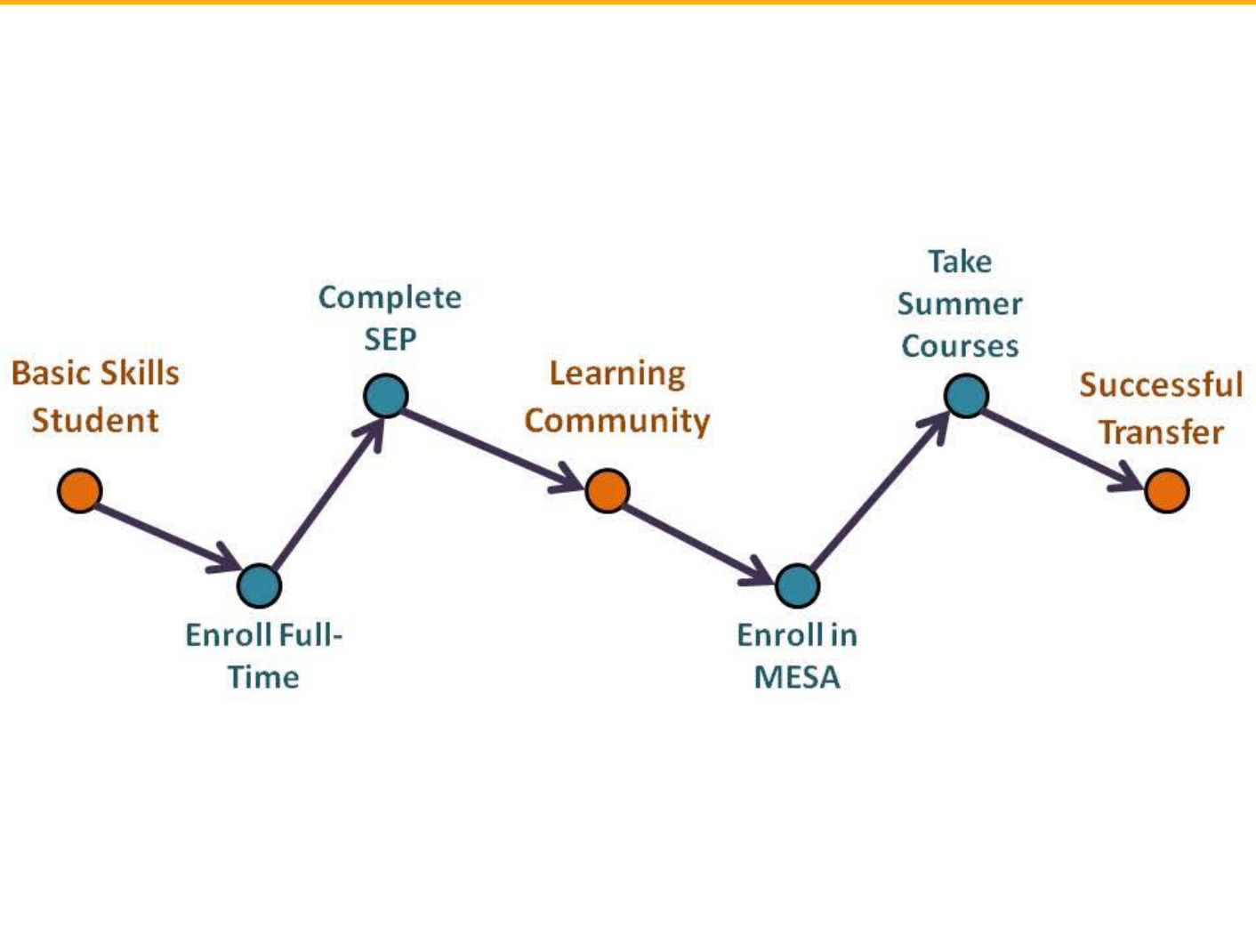
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Basic Skills Student → **Learning Community** → **Successful Transfer**
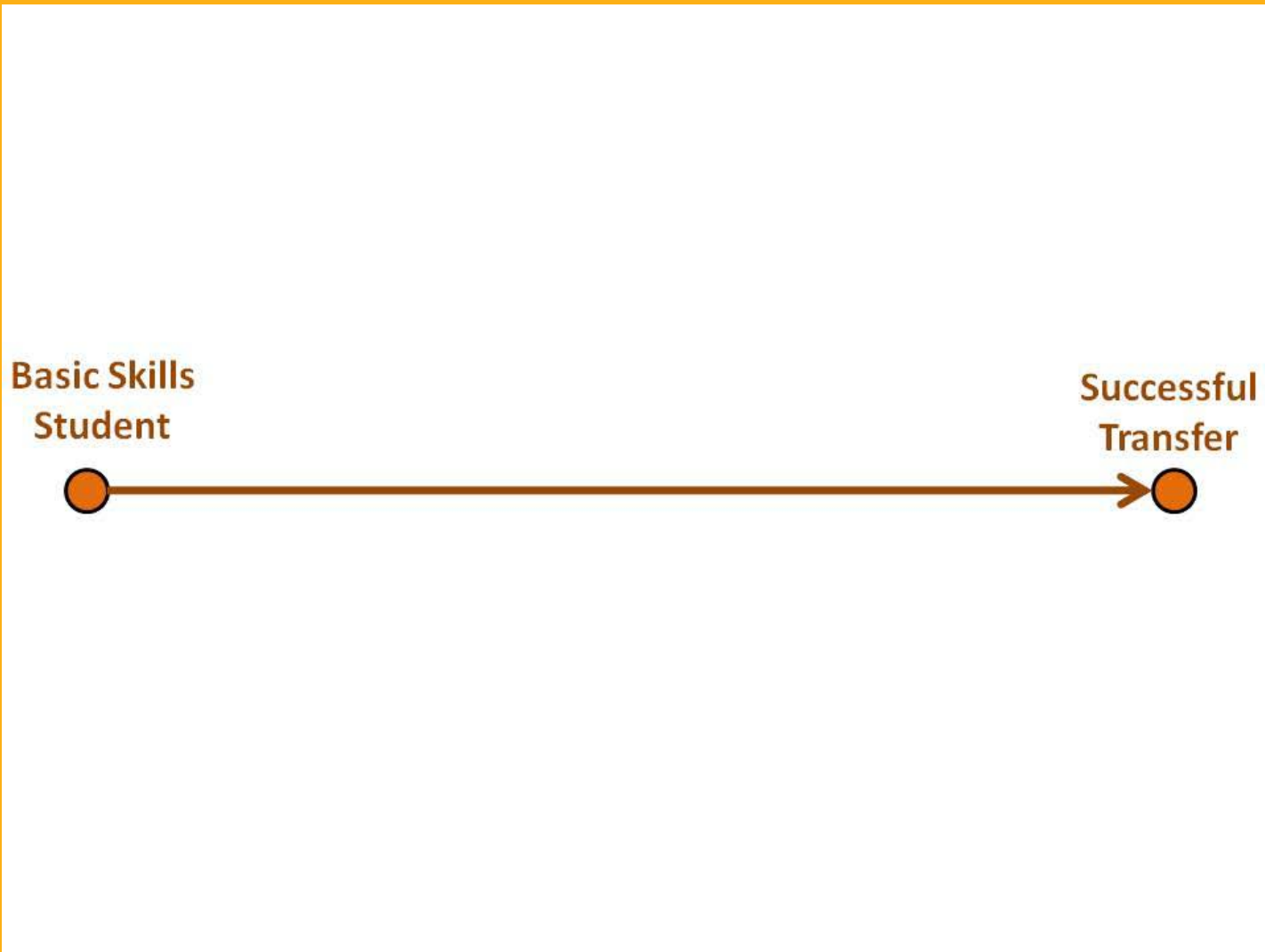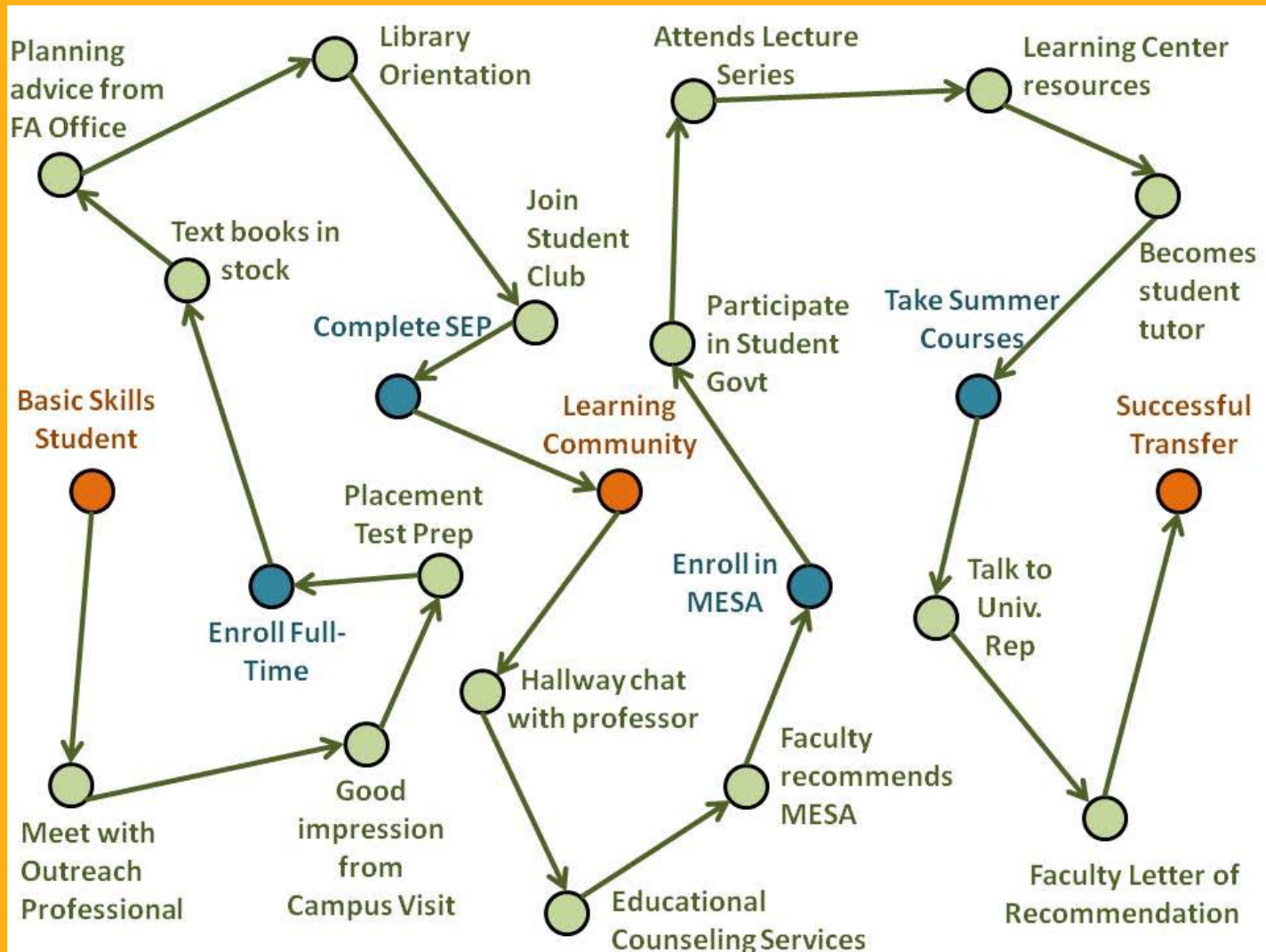
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TAP Expected Outcomes

1. Develop Actionable Data

2. Interpret Data through Discussion

3. Facilitate Dialogue

4. Integrate Data into Institutional Processes

5. Build an Inquiry-Based Practice

BRIC TAP Framework
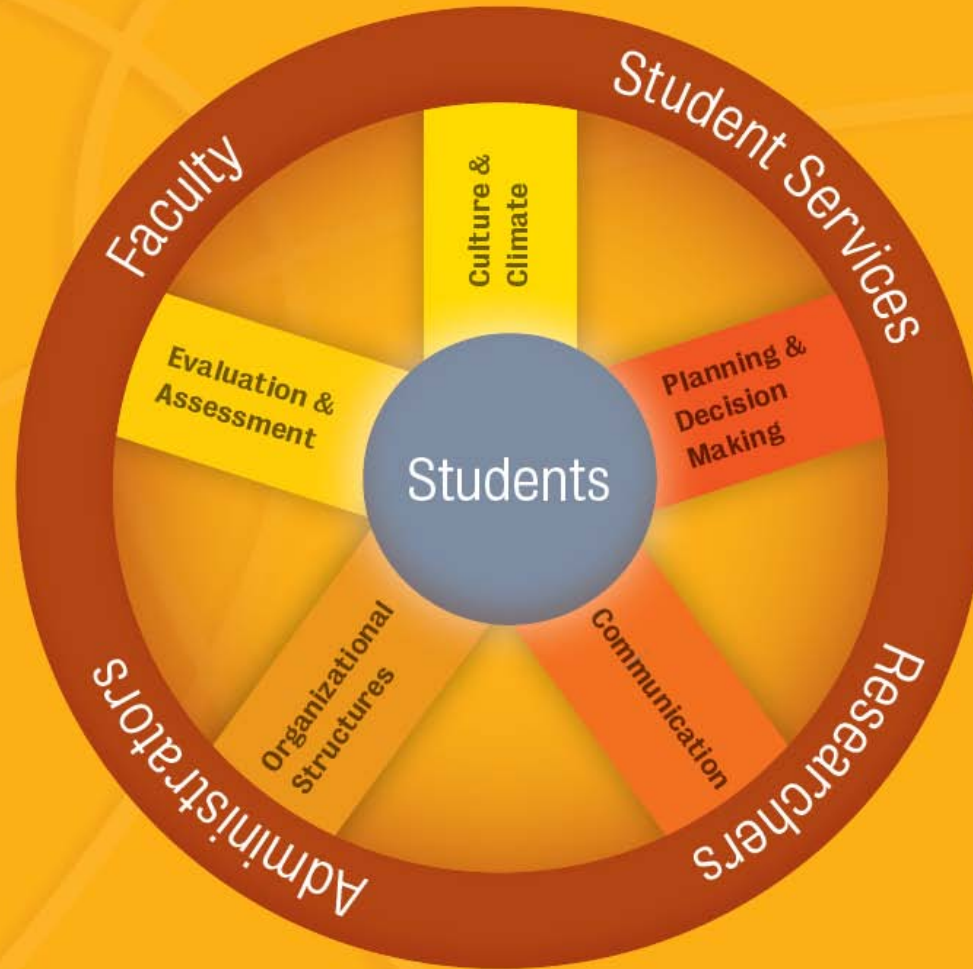
Building solid foundations for student success.

How do Colleges Benefit?

TAP Colleges

- Customized professional development
- Data coaching and facilitation
- BRIC TAP resources

TAP & Non-TAP Colleges

- Interactive website
- Professional development via multimedia (e.g. webcasts)
- Regional conferences & workshops
- BRIC TAP resources

Questions Facing Colleges

Are the teaching practices equally effective for diverse populations?

How do we know what students are learning?

Are students acquiring needed skills and values?

How do we improve our practice to address student success?

Can students apply information to real world applications?
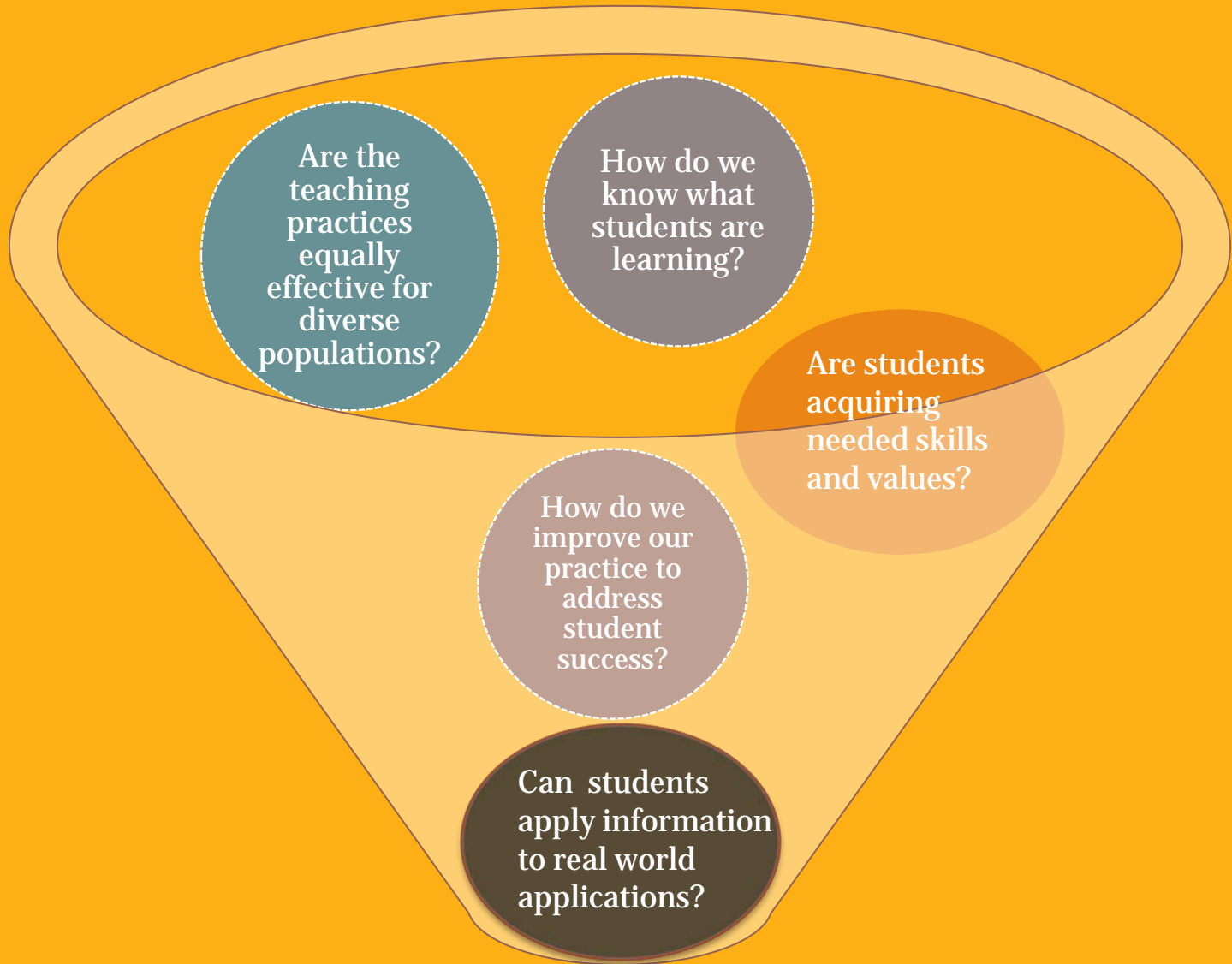
SLO assessment is the professional habit of evaluating our own work.

The BRIC Process

- Needs Assessment
  - Culture Assessment Survey
  - Review of college artifacts
  - On-site Assessment: Orientation, interviews and meetings with college lead team and multiple constituency groups, individuals and committees

- Action Planning
  - Summary of Needs Assessment
  - Dynamic Action Plan

- Implementation
  - Trainings/workshops, facilitated discussions, committee work
  - Inquiry guides, briefings, webinars, website resources

Sample BRIC Projects

- ## TAP College #1
  - Provide SLO assessment workshops for academic departments and programs
  - Assist Basic Skills Cmt. to develop an action research approach and design studies that are collaborative and create a research agenda
  - Work with new Institutional Effectiveness Office to develop an ways in which to increase use of evidence and inquiry-based practices

- ## TAP College #2
  - Provide SLO assessment workshops for combined groups of academic and student support services programs and departments
  - Work with Strategic Planning Cmt. to develop and refine indicators and measures of institutional effectiveness
  - Assist newly formed Research Cmt. in developing an infrastructure that will build research and information capacity

Sample BRIC Projects

- ## TAP College #3
  - Develop an assessment mechanism that examines the entire college planning process rather than individual pieces.
  - Complete the institutional effectiveness matrix.
  - Create an annual update component of the program review process (but maintain the existing major six-year self-study).
  - Develop an assessment matrix for evaluating college initiatives

- ## TAP College #4
  - Strengthen the quality of course- and program-level assessment via the development of an Instructional Toolkit and Train the Trainers
  - Enhance quality and participation of Student Services assessment through an audit of existing efforts and facilitation of dialogue of individual departments
  - Design sustainable and integrated college-wide and General Education Outcomes assessment

Guided Inquiry

INSTITUTIONAL SNAPSHOT

Take a moment to think about the education and services your institution provides. Consider the various structures and demographic profile. What important skills, knowledge and values should graduates from your institution have in common?

MOVING FORWARD

Now more specifically, describe what kinds of conversations take place on your campus about outcomes assessment?

- Is there broad dialog about what students should know and be able to do within courses, programs, student services, administrative units and the institution as a whole?
- Which constituencies have been involved?
- How frequently do these conversations take place and in which venues?

TAP Inquiry Guides

1. **Assessing Student Learning Outcomes**

2. **Using an Equity Lens to Assess Student Learning**

3. **Assessing Student Services Outcomes**

4. **Building Info Capacity and a Culture of Inquiry**

5. **Assessing Institutional Effectiveness**

6. **Assessing Basic Skills Outcomes**

7. **Maximizing the Program Review Process**

8. **Turning Data into Meaningful Action**

9. **Assessing Non-credit Student Learning Outcomes**

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Find Out More!

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BRIC TAP
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