

Co-Curricular Engagement and Student Success: An Examination of Students' Use of a New Campus Recreation Center

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Predicting student success

- Traditionally, focused on:
 - background variables (e.g., race/ethnic background, pre-college experiences)
 - academic activities/behaviors (e.g., study habits, interactions with faculty)
- More recent interest in co-curricular activities:
 - Student recreation centers (SRCs)

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Student use of SRCs

- Freshman SRC users @ UMN (Huesman, Brown, Lee, Kellogg, & Radcliffe, 2009)
 - Increased retention and graduation rates if SRC use \geq 25 times
 - controlled for academic, financial, and demographic background factors
- Freshman SRC users at ASU (Belch, Gebel, & Mass, 2001)
 - Increased first-semester and first-year GPAs and higher rates of persistence
 - Somewhat higher rates if SRC use \geq 20 times
- CSUSB SRC report (McConnaughy, 2014)
 - Higher GPAs among more frequent users
 - Higher retention rates among users vs. non-users
 - Better graduation rates among transfer SRC users vs. non-users



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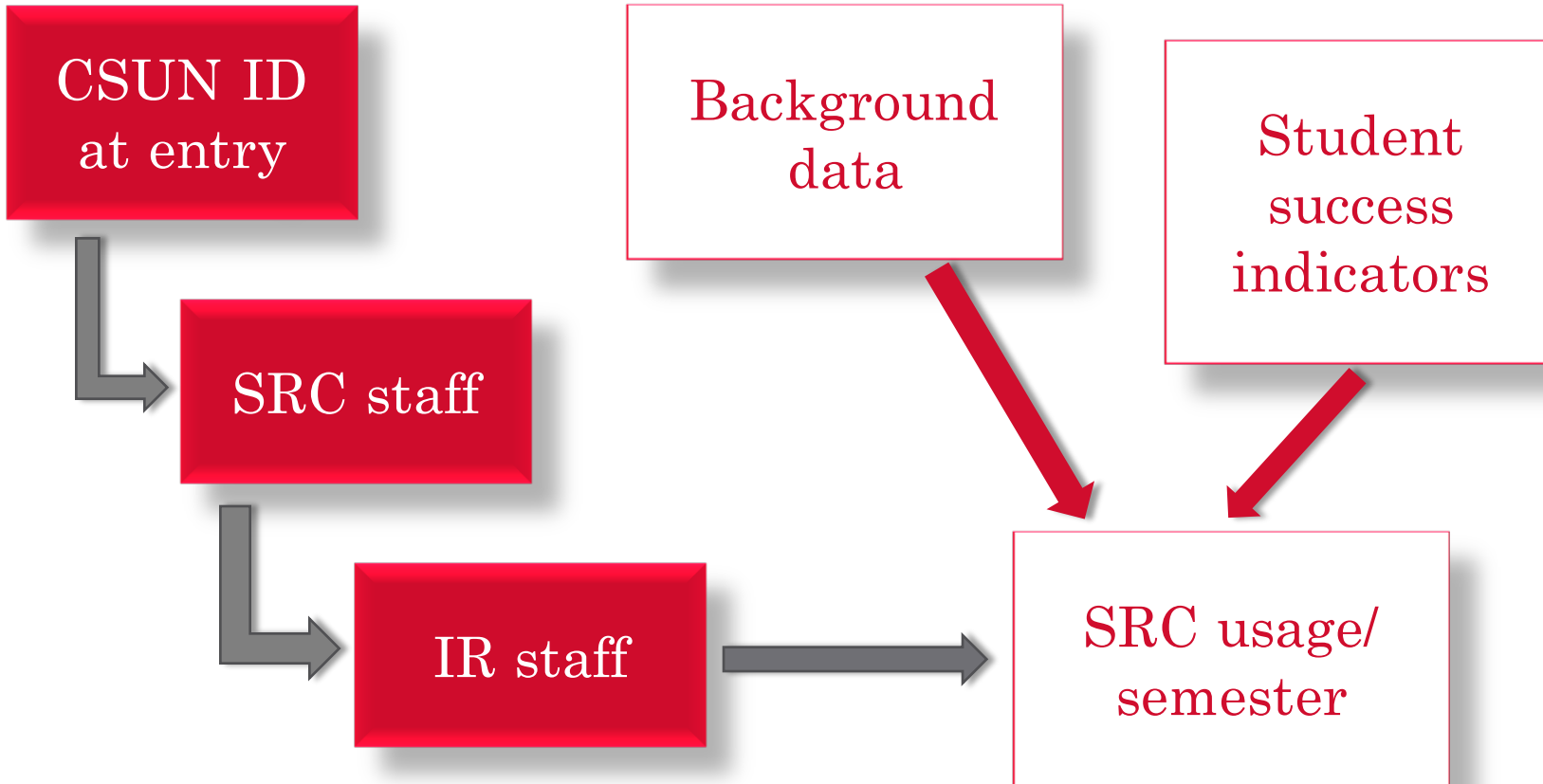
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CSUN'S Student Recreation Center

- Grand opening: Spring 2012
- Student membership included in campus fees
- Entrance requires:
 - handprint scan
 - CSUN ID

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SRC dataset

- Original dataset: Spring 2012 to Spring 2014: 35,397 users
- Final dataset:
 - Undergraduate SRC users
 - Fall term entry between 2004 and 2013
 - 89% of original: 30,322 users (13,553 to 16,285 users per term)
- Student success model:
 - New freshmen and transfers, entering Fall 2012 or Fall 2013
 - Includes all new entrants, not just SRC users
 - Freshman sample: $n = 9,968$
 - Transfer sample: $n = 9,159$

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User categories

	Fall 2012		Fall 2013	
User category	N	%	N	%
Rare Users (< 5)	5,276	38.9	6,175	45.5
Occasional Users (5-9)	2,893	21.3	3,264	24.1
Modest Users (10-14)	1,621	12.0	1,811	13.4
Regular Users (15-24)	1,985	14.6	2,027	14.9
Frequent Users (25-49)	1,852	13.7	2,111	15.6
Committed Users (50-99)	778	5.7	814	6.0
Super Users (> 100)	109	0.8	83	0.6

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ONGOING USERS

Selected user characteristics

Characteristic	Fall 2012			Fall 2013		
	Rare	Ongoing	All UG	Rare	Ongoing	All UG
% women	58.9	43.8	54.7	59.9	45.7	54.5
% URM	50.7	51.0	44.8	52.8	52.7	47.1
% international	5.3	5.1	6.7	5.9	5.5	7.4
% Pell recipient	55.8	54.9	50.4	57.7	55.5	52.8
% FTF	66.3	69.9	56.9	66.3	70.2	59.2
% freshman standing	27.9	30.5	22.0	29.6	32.3	23.5
% upperclass standing	56.7	52.2	64.4	57.1	53.3	63.6
HS GPA (new FTF)	3.13	3.13	3.15	3.15	3.16	3.18
Transfer GPA (FTT)	2.98	2.97	2.99	3.00	2.98	3.01

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Studentsuccess model for F12 & F13 entrants: Subsample sizes

		Traditionally Underserved	Better served	International	Other/ unknown
Freshmen	Women	3608	1380	272	309
	Men	2384	1338	401	264
Transfers	Women	1896	2187	349	455
	Men	1397	2075	349	442

User groups: First-term SRC use

	Freshmen				Transfers			
	Trad underserved		Better served		Trad underserved		Better served	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
NonUser	30%	24%	37%	29%	58%	41%	66%	48%
Rare	30%	20%	22%	20%	20%	18%	17%	19%
Ongoing	40%	56%	41%	50%	22%	41%	17%	33%

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Incoming GPA by first-term SRC use

	Freshmen				Transfers			
	Trad underserved		Better served		Trad underserved		Better served	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
NonUser	3.20	3.12	3.36	3.17	2.96	2.92	3.09	3.02
Rare	3.15	3.05	3.29	3.13	2.94	2.87	3.09	2.98
Ongoing	3.16	3.06	3.28	3.15	2.96	2.89	3.09	2.97

Units earned first year by first-term SRC use

	Freshmen				Transfers			
	Trad underserved		Better served		Trad underserved		Better served	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
NonUser	22.7	21.8	25.6	23.6	21.6	21.0	22.4	21.3
Rare	22.8	22.1	25.9	24.6	23.9	22.6	24.1	22.3
Ongoing	24.2	22.5	26.3	25.0	24.2	22.7	24.6	23.5

GPA end of first year by first-term SRC use

	Freshmen				Transfers			
	Trad underserved		Better served		Trad underserved		Better served	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
NonUser	2.59	2.46	3.05	2.74	2.80	2.72	3.04	2.86
Rare	2.56	2.40	3.08	2.75	2.84	2.74	3.05	2.88
Ongoing	2.73	2.45	3.02	2.79	2.89	2.64	3.02	2.85

One-year continuation rates by first-term SRC use

	Freshmen				Transfers			
	Trad underserved		Better served		Trad underserved		Better served	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
NonUser	69%	70%	88%	79%	80%	75%	86%	82%
Rare	72%	70%	87%	81%	85%	85%	86%	84%
Ongoing	81%	74%	86%	86%	88%	81%	89%	87%

One-year continuation rates by first-term SRC use

	Freshmen		Transfers	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
NonUser	75.0%	73.8%	83.0%	79.6%
Rare	75.1%	73.8%	85.8%	84.2%
Ongoing	82.5%	78.1%	88.5%	84.4%

SRC use and student outcomes

- SRC use associated with improved student outcomes for traditionally underserved women
 - Women less likely to use SRC as compared with men
 - Simple association – hard to determine that SRC use is necessarily the cause
- Predictive model for other co-curricular activities
 - Student groups
 - Student employment
 - Student research experiences

THANK YOU!

*For more information, please email
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