

Strategies for Successful Formative Program Evaluation

Dr. Laurie Miller & Christy King
Utah's Statewide GEAR UP Education Program

Darlene Cole & Urban Pelicon
CoBro Consulting

2009 NCCEP/GEAR UP Conference – San Francisco, CA

Overview

- ❖ Evaluation Partners
 - *Utah's Statewide GEAR UP Education Program*
 - *CoBro Consulting*
- ❖ Primary Evaluation Responsibilities
 - *Coordination of data collection & data management*
 - *Department of Education mandated reports*
 - *Survey design, data analysis & results reporting*
- ❖ Evaluation Challenges and Solutions
- ❖ Program Outcomes
- ❖ Keys to Success



Evaluation Partners

Utah's Statewide GEAR UP Education Program

- ❖ Statewide Program
- ❖ Award Period: Sept. 2005 – Aug. 2011
- ❖ Total Award: \$18.6 Million
 - \$3.1M Annually
 - \$1.55M Operating Budget
 - \$1.55M Scholarships
- ❖ Cohort & Priority Student Models
- ❖ 3267 Students Served To-Date



Evaluation Partners

Utah's Statewide GEAR UP Education Program

- ❖ 4 state higher ed institutions
- ❖ 10 service regions
- ❖ 13 school districts
- ❖ 35 high schools
- ❖ 1,722 currently active students
 - 532 cohort students in 2 urban high schools
 - 1,199 priority students in 35 high schools





Evaluation Partners

Utah's Statewide GEAR UP Education Program

Our Goals:

Competency

Increase basic skills & readiness for college

Preparedness

Increase high school graduation & college enrollment rates

Scholarships

Increase access to post-secondary education options & financing for college



Evaluation Partners

Utah's Statewide GEAR UP Education Program

GEAR UP Staff:

- Statewide Director
- Assistant Director
- Data Coordinator
- Administrative Support
- Partner Directors/Coordinators
- Counselors
- Supervisors/Liaisons
- Tutors

Services Provided:

- Individualized Academic Services
- Tutoring
- Financial Aid Workshops
- Test Preparation
- College/Career Chats
- College Visits
- College Preparedness Workshops
- Family Outreach
- Summer Programs
- GEAR UP Scholarships





Evaluation Partners

Utah's Statewide GEAR UP Education Program

Scholarships Awarded for 2007-2008: 22

- Average Scholarship Award Amount: \$4,310
- Total Scholarship Funds Disbursed: \$78,193

New Scholarships Awarded for 2008-2009: 47

- Average Scholarship Award Amount: \$4,731
- Total Scholarship Funds Disbursed: \$245,352

New Scholarships Awarded for 2008-2009: 111

- Average Scholarship Award Amount: \$5,350
- Total Possible New Scholarship Award Amount: \$593,850



Evaluation Partners

CoBro Consulting

- ❖ Program evaluation systems & services
- ❖ *Data management and evaluation*
- ❖ *Specializing in:*
 - Online student tracking/
grant management systems
 - Program evaluation
 - Survey services
 - Data analysis
- ❖ *Based in San Diego, CA*



Evaluation Partners

CoBro Consulting

Current GEAR UP clients include:

- Bellflower GEAR UP, CA
- Wenatchee GEAR UP, WA
- GEAR UP Project Lasso, CA
- Amarillo College GEAR UP, TX
- Palomar College GEAR UP, CA
- Utah's Statewide GEAR UP, UT
- GEAR UP Idaho State Program, ID
- Oklahoma Statewide GEAR UP, OK
- Eastern Arizona College GEAR UP, AZ
- Tennessee GEAR UP State Program, TN
- Rural Northern New Mexico GEAR UP, NM
- Kenai Peninsula Project Grad GEAR UP, AK
- Long Beach Unified School District GEAR UP, CA
- CUNY Middle Grades Initiative, GEAR UP, NY
- Anaheim GEAR UP, CA
- Lorain GEAR UP, OH
- LAUSD GEAR UP, CA
- Pasadena GEAR UP, TX
- Tucson GEAR UP, AZ
- Roosevelt GEAR UP, OR
- Salinas GEAR UP, CA



Primary Evaluation Responsibilities

Coordination of Data Collection & Data Management

- ❖ *Requires year-round data collection*
- ❖ *Service participation data*
 - for each student, parent, and staff
 - by service type
- ❖ *Course-level academic data*
- ❖ *The COMPASS system...*



Primary Evaluation Responsibilities

COMPASS...

The Comprehensive
Program
Assessment
System



Primary Evaluation Responsibilities

Department of Education Mandated Reports

- ❖ *Annual Performance Report*
 - Service, academic, & survey data
 - Focused on data tabulations
 - Narrative evaluation-related sections
- ❖ *Biennial evaluation & report*
 - Due every-other December
 - Focused on progress towards program objectives (see APR table in Section II, 7)



Primary Evaluation Responsibilities

GEAR UP Surveys

- ❖ *Form design & development*
 - Students, parents, and program staff/faculty
- ❖ *Administration*
 - Paper-based
 - Students: in-class; Parents: various methods
- ❖ *Data processing & analysis*
- ❖ *Results reporting*
 - For APR & biennial evaluation
 - Comprehensive survey results report



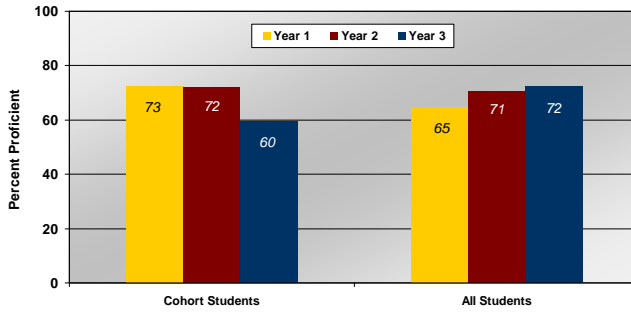
Evaluation Challenges & Solutions

Evaluation Challenges

- ❖ *Administering student surveys during lunchtime (resulting in catsup-clogged scanner!)*
- ❖ *Getting parents to participate in completing surveys*
- ❖ *Obtaining academic data from schools/districts*
- ❖ *Entering data manually*
- ❖ *Ensuring accuracy of data*

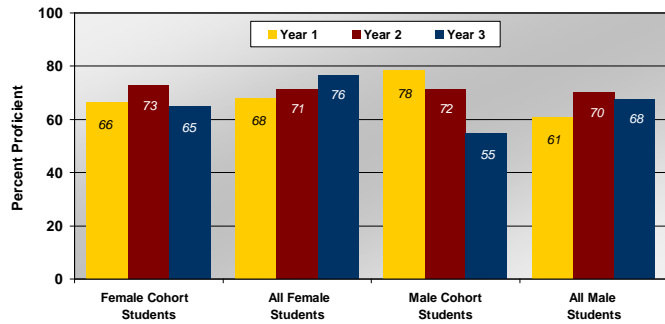
Program Outcomes

Utah Criterion Referenced Tests: English



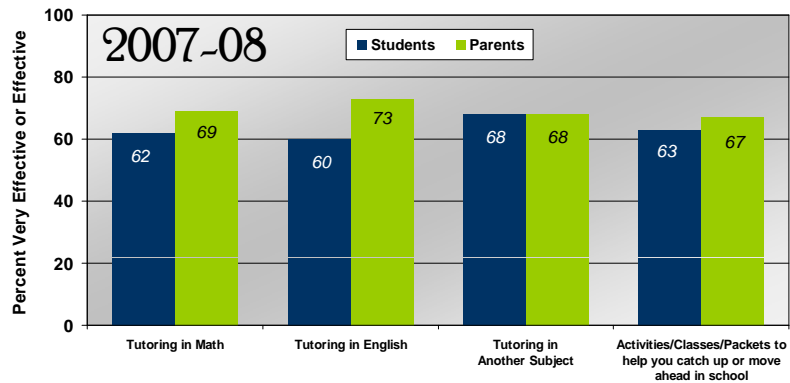
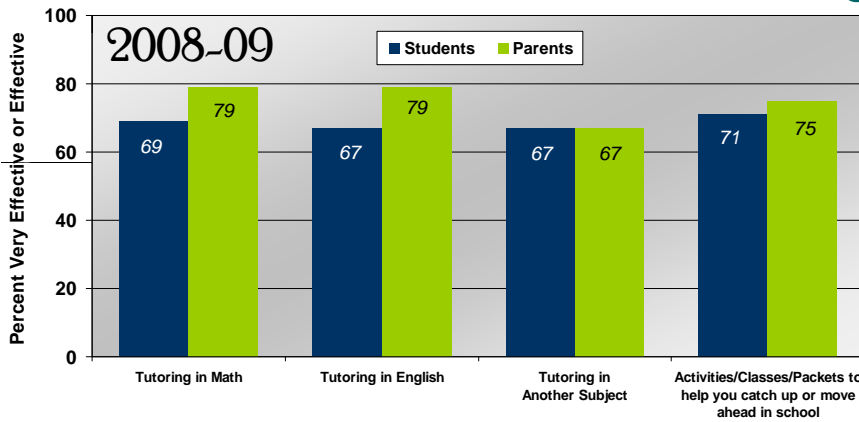
All Students

Disaggregated by gender



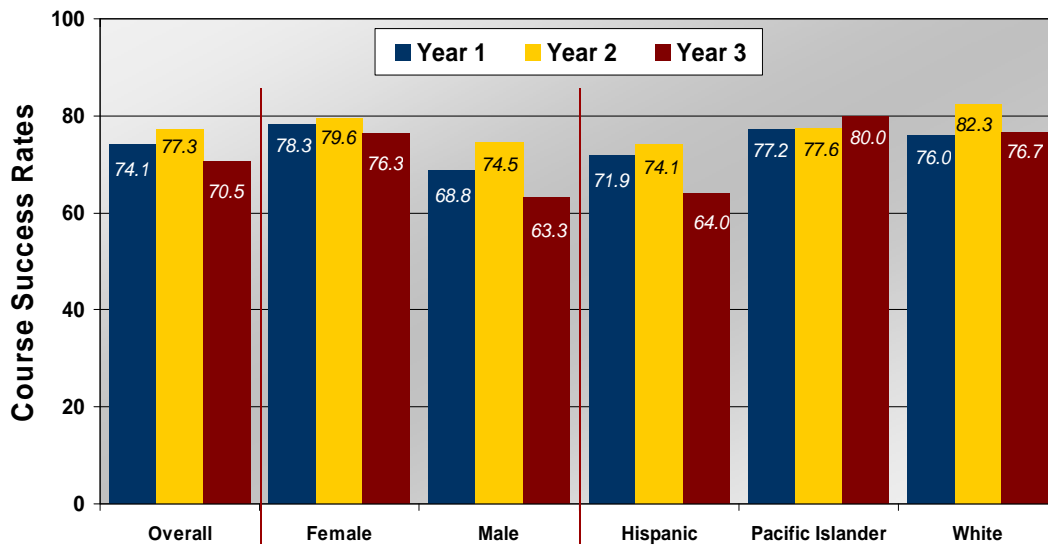
Program Outcomes

Survey Results



Program Outcomes

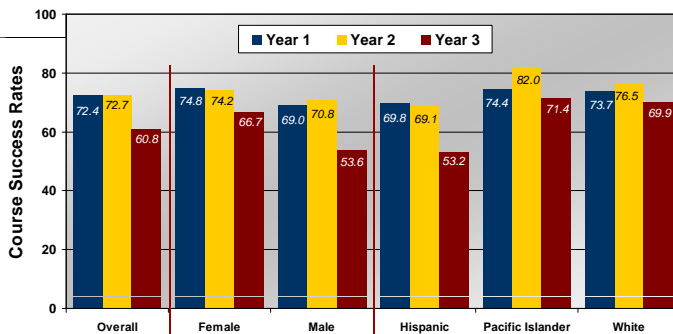
Utah Course Success Rates: English



Disaggregated by student characteristic

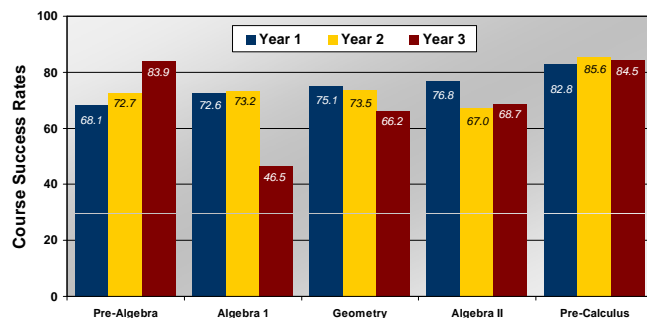
Program Outcomes

Utah Course Success Rates: Math



Disaggregated by student characteristic

Disaggregated by course type





Keys to Success

Strengths in our Partnership

- ❖ *Shared goals*
- ❖ *Communication*
- ❖ *Team effort*
 - Collaboration of program staff & evaluators

Strategies for Successful Formative Program Evaluation

Questions?

Dr. Laurie Miller

(801) 863-6000

Laurie.Miller@uvu.edu

Darlene Cole

(858) 395-7899

DCole@CoBroConsulting.com

Urban Pelicon

(619) 203-2047

UPelicon@CoBroConsulting.com

Christy King

(801) 863-6849

CKing@uvu.edu