

## Benchmarking FTIAC Persistence

Using data collected by the Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE), *2012-13 Retention Report*, IRIM compiled some benchmarking data about student persistence. A group of state universities from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois were selected as a peer group. The average of the peer group was compared to EMU data for the FTIAC fall 2006 cohort. EMU compared favorably with the peer group in first fall to first winter retention (EMU 89% vs. Peer Group 90%), and first to second year retention (EMU 71% vs. Peer Group 73%). However, EMU's second to third year retention (56%) was lower than the peer group (62%). EMU lost an additional 15% of its FTIACs, while the peer group lost an additional 11%.

In several other comparisons EMU also did not compare favorably. Across the board, four, five and six year overall graduation rates were 10%-11% lower than the peer group. When completion rates were examined by gender and ethnic group, particular weakness was revealed in male and black graduation patterns. EMU's 6 year graduation rate for FTIAC men was 33% compared to 45% for the peer group, a difference of 12%. The 6 year graduation rate for women was 40% compared to 49%. The gender gap for the peer group was only 4%, while EMU's gap is 7%. Comparing the two largest ethnic groups at EMU, white and black students, black students had much lower completion rates compared to the peer group (EMU 18% vs. peer group 32%) and a larger completion rate gap between the white and black students. EMU's white student 6 year graduation rate was 44% which equates to a 26% completion rate gap. The peer group's white 6 year graduation rate was 50% which yields an 18% gap.