

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION

SECTION: 17
DATE: December 10, 2013

**DEGREE COMPLETION AND RETENTION PLAN PRESENTATION**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve and place on file the presentation entitled, "EMU's Degree Completion and Retention Plan."

**SUMMARY**

The presentation provides a summary of the process and resulting document, which will guide EMU's retention efforts for the foreseeable future.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and it is recommended for Board approval.

University Executive Officer

Date

# Degree Completion & Retention Plan

Education Policies Committee  
Board of Regents  
December 10, 2013

## Comprehensive Plan

The Provost's Office has been developing a comprehensive plan to enhance support for students' retention and degree completion at EMU.

- Coordinated plan that focuses campus-wide energy, attention and resources around improving our performance in these areas.
- Effective execution of current efforts and outreach, and adding high impact programmatic enhancements.
- The plan focuses on five areas of practice, process and policy that both scholarly and practitioner research have shown to have significant impact on degree completion and/or retention.
- In addition, the plan features special initiatives aimed at two demographic segments of our student population, where research shows that targeted efforts can realize extraordinary results.

## Five Areas

Areas of practice, process and policy:

1. Student Preparedness
2. Enrollment Policies
3. Financial Aid Policies and Incentives
4. Advising and Student Support
5. Curriculum Structure and Delivery

## Special Initiatives

Targeted initiatives aimed at **two demographic segments** of our student population:

1. Men of Color
  2. Single Parents
- Research has shown that targeted programmatic efforts addressing the unique circumstances/attributes of the two segments can realize extraordinary results.
  - Many on campus are already active in championing efforts to support these two groups of students.

## Desired Outcomes

- Increase student retention rates as well as graduation rates (measured at 4, 5 and 6 year intervals).
- EMU becoming nationally recognized as a thought-leader regarding successful support strategies for increasing retention and graduation among the two identified demographic groups.

## Progress to Date

- Established metrics for regular reporting.
- Gap Analysis.
- Initial working drafts strategies in each of the seven areas of the plan.
- Focus groups and electronic survey for feedback.
- Open Discussion Forums.
- Final report from Bridgeport Consulting - Focus Groups, Surveys and Discussion Forums.
- Faculty Senate presentation 10/2/13. Input received 11/20/13.
- Student Government and Student Leader Group - feedback at their meetings.