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Siyaphumelela
Building Student Success
through Data Analytics

June 27, 2014

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High dropout rates in education

- Less than 50% of 1,1 million learners enrolled in grade one in 2002 have written their final matric exams
- An HSRC study of 34 000 students showed that of this amount, only 14 000 graduated, with some 20 000 dropping out in YOS1 or midway through YOS2
- If we look at 100 students that started school 12 years ago, only 48 of them reached Matric, 36 passed and 14 qualified to go to university. Less than 6 are likely to graduate.

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Challenges

- Weak student success rates
- Lack of clarity for what works best to enhance student success
- Academic Development varies from institution to institution and between departments within institutions
- Lack of integration between IR, AD, ICT, student services and academic departments
- Variability in IR capacity
- Lack of a national, systemic response

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Opportunities

- DHET Learning and Teaching grants
- CHE Quality Enhancement project
- Increasing interest in using data analytics to improve student success
- SASSE – South African Survey of Student Engagement
- Access to cutting-edge international thinking on similar issues
- Emerging models overseas: Scotland, Achieving the Dream, Georgia State University

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Siyaphumelela Concepts

- Focus on building and integrating data analytics capacity
- Build from existing momentum
- Create a cohort of institutions building experience in data analytics (UP, Wits, UFS, NMMU)
- Work through common challenges to build a shared vocabulary and national models
  - Top-10 failure rate courses
  - High Impact Practices like First-Year Experience
- See what practices have the most positive impact

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Siyaphumelela Goals

- **Improve capacity** to collect student data and integrate it with IR, ICT, academic development, student services, planning and academic divisions
- **Create SA models** of universities using successful data analytics to improve student outcomes
- **Create a greater awareness** and support for data use to improve student success in South Africa
- **Create and highlight a shared vocabulary and consensus** on especially effective practices to improve student success
- **Enlarge the cadre** of experienced data analytics professionals supporting student success

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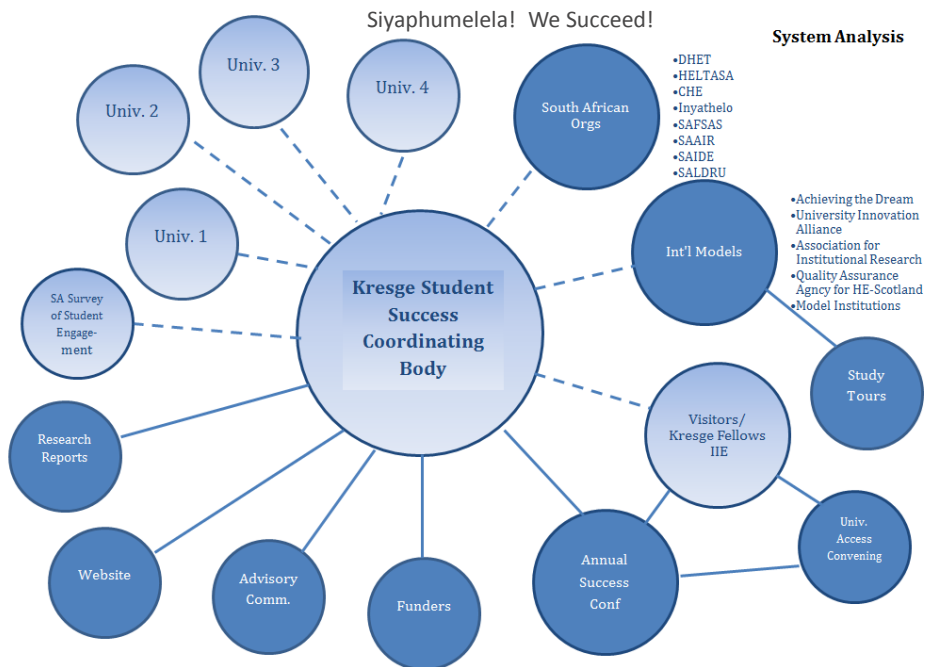
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Information Sharing

- Each year, the Siyaphumelela program will host a national conference:
  - Share lessons from the 4 institutional projects
  - Engage with other national initiatives
    - DHET T&L Grants
    - CHE Quality Enhancement Project
    - SA Survey of Student Engagement (UFS)
    - SAHELA initiatives etc
  - Weave these strands into a national discourse
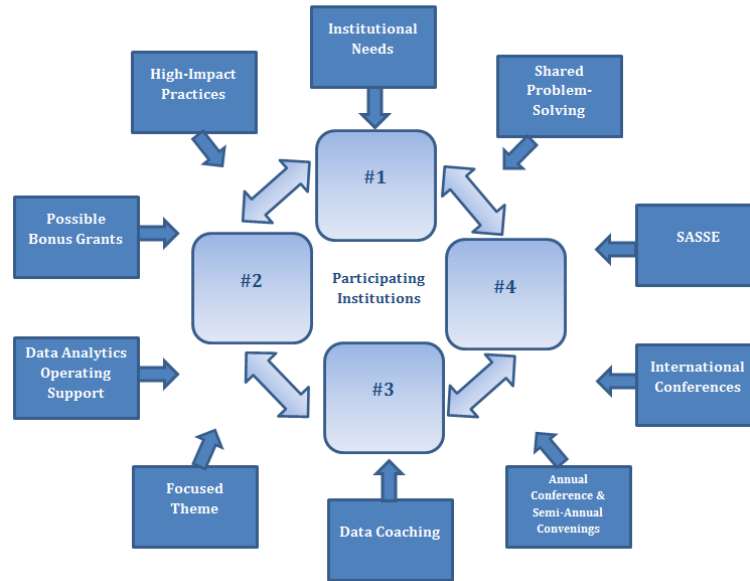 - **Website: http://siyaphumelela.org.za**

Siyaphumelela! We Succeed!

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Institutional Analysis

High-Impact Practices

Institutional Needs

Shared Problem-Solving

Possible Bonus Grants

#1

#2

Participating Institutions

#4

SASSE

Data Analytics Operating Support

#3

International Conferences

Focused Theme

Data Coaching

Annual Conference & Semi-Annual Convenings

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Wits Spin-off Initiatives

- Assist the Universities of Venda and Limpopo:
  - Build analytics capacity
    - Provide a Tableau license
    - Train an analyst
    - Assist with 1st year experience survey
    - Assist with data analysis so that they better understand their student within their context
- Assist university of Mpumalanga:
  - Data Warehouse Design