

SJR State Learning & Success Trends & Strategies for Improvement

District Board of Trustees Meeting
March 27, 2024



Topics for Today

- The Aspen Institute's Success Metrics
- SJR State's Learning and Success Trends
- Strategies for Improvement



What is the Aspen Prize?

The \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, awarded every two years, is the nation's signature recognition for America's community colleges—as President Obama called it, “basically the Oscars for great community colleges.”

The Aspen Prize honors colleges with outstanding achievement in six critical areas: teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success, access, and equity for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds.

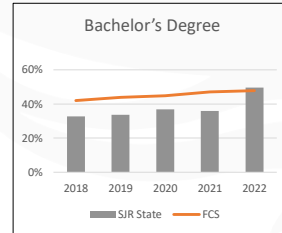
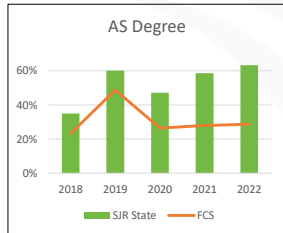
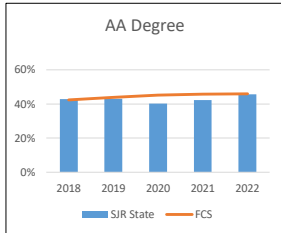
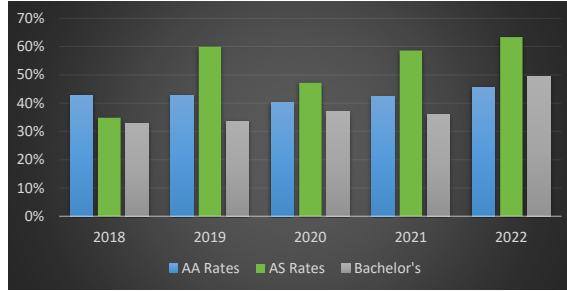


Why Aspen's Metrics Matter

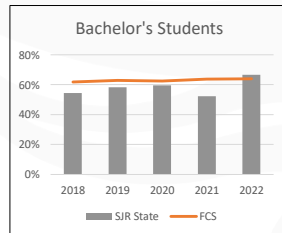
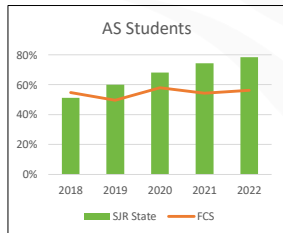
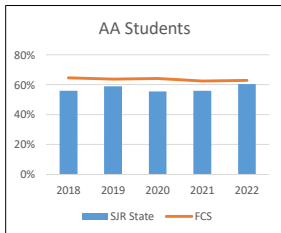
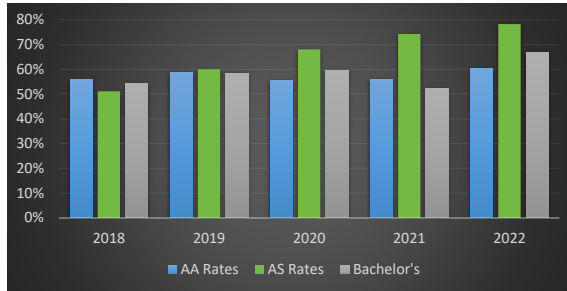
- Establishing institutional baselines and discussing data trends allows us to measure the impact of our strategies
- Evaluating successes internally has value on its own
- Evaluating successes relative to other institutions' successes creates context
- Exploring other institutions' best practices can help us develop our own strategies for improvement
- *Establishing an institutional culture that values continuous improvement is step 1*



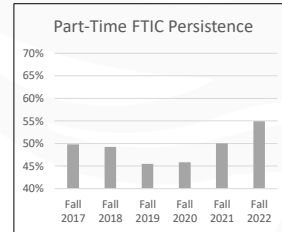
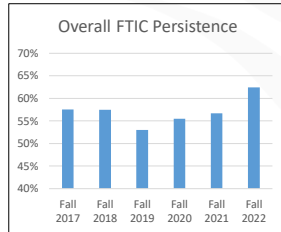
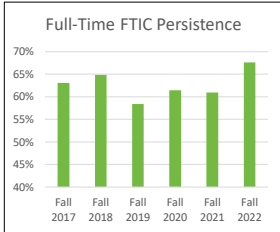
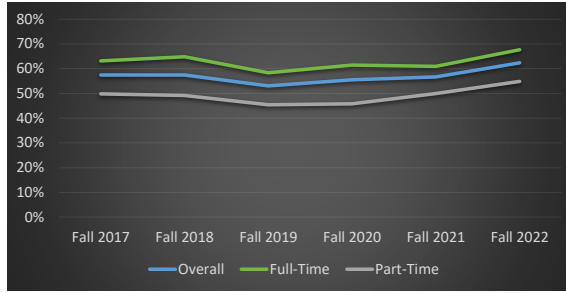
Graduation Rates by Degree Type



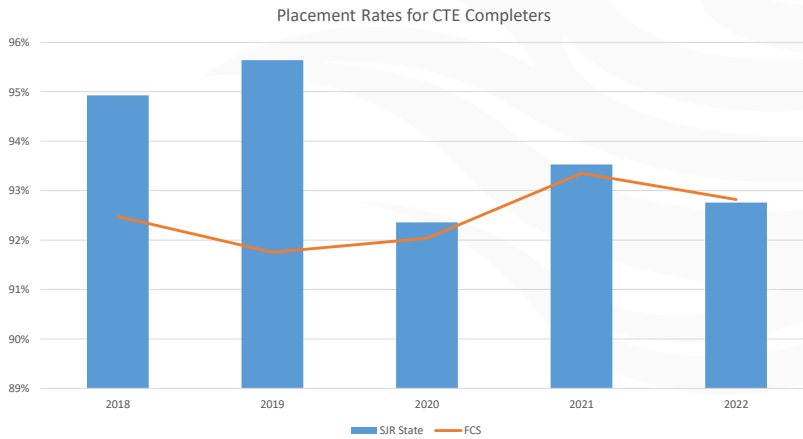
Retention Rates by Degree Type



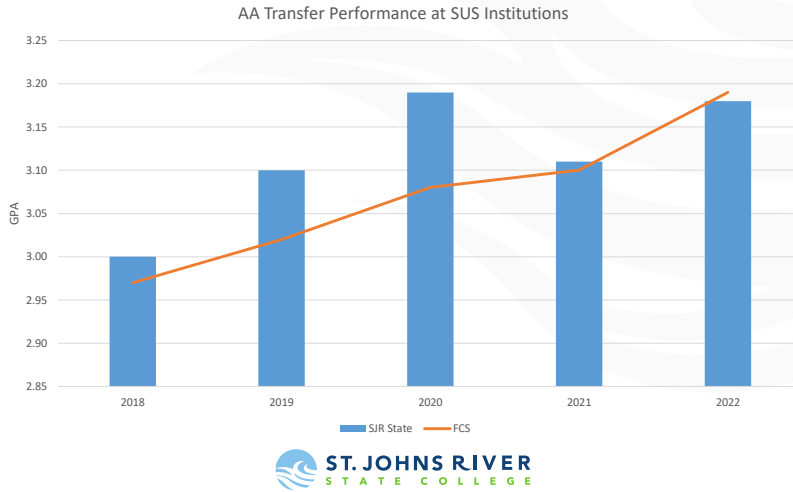
Fall-to-Fall Persistence Trends



Workforce Graduate Success

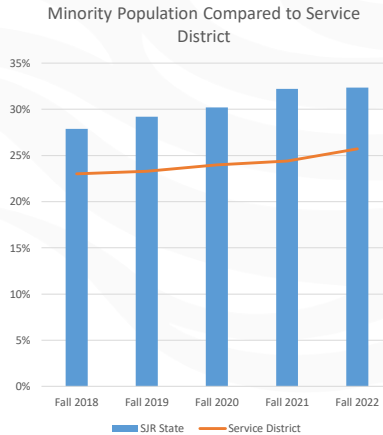


AA Transfer Success

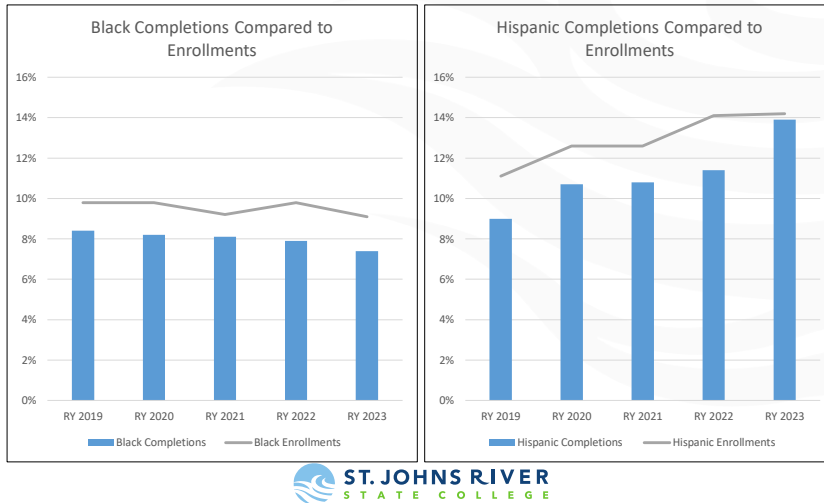


Minority Population

SJR State's minority student population has consistently been higher than that of the general service district population.



Minority Completions



Student Success Goals & Strategies

As articulated in our 2022-27 Strategic Plan, SJR State's most important goal for student success is to Re-imagine Student Pathways and Support. Key strategies are to:

- *Improve Engagement, Advising, and Support for Students*—provide early and sustained connection to academics and student services
- *Revamp the General Education Experience*—focus on foundational skills and create clear pathways to degree and transfer

Initiatives to meet these goals include curricular, process, and cultural changes. The College has focused on improving general education courses as this impacts 100% of credit AA and AS students.

SJR State's Most Important Student Success Strategy

SJR State has worked deliberately for over ten years to build a *culture of collaboration and shared responsibility for student success* among the College's departments and employees. With general education courses making up a minimum of 60% of the credits in the AA, 25% of AS credits, and 30% of Bachelors credits, SJR State has focused its student success initiatives on a multi-phased redesign of general education and its associated supports.

- 2013: Developmental Education Redesign began
- 2018: Non-algebra math pathway launched
- 2020: Mandatory Academic Pathways course added to AA
- 2014-2024: Ongoing investments in improved wraparound academic & student supports such as tutoring, CARE counseling, library, etc.



Work to Improve Teaching

SJR State's work to establish a "*Learning Culture*" at the College encourages faculty to expand their pedagogical and technological toolkits in an environment that supports innovation while valuing learning gained through both successes and failures.

- Professional Development Institute
- Active Learning Workshop
- Distance Learning Academy
- Quality Matters Training
- Ongoing informal training, mentoring, reflection, and engagement opportunities



Work to Create Clear Pathways

- During the student onboarding, initial advising session, and subsequent advising sessions to include the 20-hour hold, advisors guide students through their program of study.
- In 2018, the general education course Academic Pathways was identified as a platform for clarifying pathways to degree and credentials. The course was launched in 2020.
- SJR State's Scheduling for Success project ensures students have consistent and flexible class scheduling options.
- The College also provides students with various online tools and resources to assist them with exploration of career and educational pathways such as degree maps, course sequencing guides, and schedule rotations.



Work to Promote Equity

- Recognizing that students' feelings of inclusion positively impact student success, the College sought to impact Black students in 2019 through a year-long celebration entitled ***400 Years of African American History***.
- The ***Collier Blocker Scholarship Program*** provides scholarship funds and matches scholarship recipients with a ***mentor*** who is an SJR State employee.
- Initiatives designed to promote student success for the entire population such as Proactive Advising and Academic Pathways and other support strategies such as tutoring, counseling, and career services help underrepresented students stay and succeed.



Targeted Work to Promote Equity—this list is short

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This has been our primary strategy.



New Strategies (2023-2024)

- Our Experiential Learning QEP!
- Pilot project targeting Former Homeless and Foster Students with attention, engagement, and mentoring opportunities has begun and is ready to expand
- Engaging faculty and staff in discussion of data and emerging best practices



Questions?

