Institutions participating in BCSSE have provided examples demonstrating uses of BCSSE's diagnostic, actionable information on beginning college student engagement to catalyze vital, sometimes challenging conversations on campus about the quality of undergraduate education. This brief focuses on one theme among these examples.

Campuses across the country understand that identifying students at risk of not persisting is of utmost importance. Institutions devote considerable resources and staff time to improving the first-year experience and student persistence. Among many successful institutional efforts to improve student persistence is the example of the University of South Florida's effective use of BCSSE data.

DATA-INFORMED CAMPUSWIDE PERSISTENCE EFFORTS

The **University of South Florida** (USF) began administering BCSSE to its first-year students in 2014, and every year the campus reassesses how it distributes and utilizes BCSSE data to support student success efforts across the university. Most notably, USF uses the data to deploy predictive analytics, to inform support personnel about the students they serve, and to identify students for early intervention.

WHAT IS YOUR BCSSE DATA USE STORY?

Our growing collection of stories about how BCSSE institutions use their results is a shared resource for colleges and universities, and assists in our continuing efforts to improve the quality of the undergraduate experience.

If you wish to share examples highlighting your institution's uses of BCSSE data, usage strategies, or special activities, please contact us at **bcsse@indiana.edu**

For several years, USF has been using its own persistence model to identify 10–12% of new first-year students at risk of not persisting to the second year of college. Developed at USF, this statistical model is based on pre-matriculation data taken directly from the university's student information system. Incorporating BCSSE data into this persistence model, in fall 2016, not only strengthened it as a statistical tool but also revealed which BCSSE variables were significant predictors of first-year persistence, making it possible for USF to identify students for early intervention based on their individual BCSSE responses.

Using pre-matriculation characteristics to predict the risk of attrition has allowed support offices to start intervention efforts in the first few weeks of classes, when new students are in the early stages of connecting with the institution. The lists of at-risk students are shared with academic advisors, academic foundations (first-year seminar) instructors, and housing and residential education personnel, with the expectation that these entities will provide the students targeted interventions. After reviewing their students' BCSSE Advising Reports, the academic advisors, first-year seminar instructors, and housing and residential education personnel conduct intentional conversations informed by the reports' individual student responses.

University of South Florida

USF's New Student Connections (NSC) office has been particularly effective in their use of specific BCSSE responses for targeted and proactive outreach. In fall 2016, NSC reached out to students whose BCSSE responses indicated they did not intend to or were uncertain whether they would graduate from USF, with a focus on those who also indicated they had no close friends at USF.

Because USF's persistence model found these BCSSE items to be predictive, these 244 students were selected for priority outreach and received up to six outreach contacts (email, phone call, text) from Peer Advisor Leaders (PALs) who engaged the students in conversations about their adjustment to college life, their USF experience, any struggles they were encountering, questions they might have, and their engagement in campus life. Based on their responses, these students were encouraged to connect with a PAL for coaching to help them navigate any transition or barrier to their success at USF.

University of South Florida

NSC tracked each outreach contact and shared results with appropriate campus partners and support offices. This effort paved the way for an expanded peer-coaching initiative. In 2017, NSC plans to utilize BCSSE response data earlier to inform support for first-year students who begin in the summer term.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR BCSSE DATA USERS

Lessons from the Field: nsse.indiana.edu/links/lessons_home

Using Your BCSSE Data: bcsse.indiana.edu/usingBCSSEData.cfm

NSSE Data Results and Guides: nsse.indiana.edu/html/data_and_results_guide.cfm

Workshops, Webinars, and Meetings: nsse.indiana.edu/html/institute_workshops_webinars_meetings.cfm