

Clear Path Community College Transfer Students in STEM



East Stroudsburg University
Lehigh Carbon Community College
Luzerne County Community College
Northampton Community College

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NSF DUE 1564634 \$4,039,527

Clear Path Team



Major Goal & Key Strategies



The overarching goal of Clear Path is to increase STEM student retention and timely baccalaureate degree completion among community college STEM transfers to East Stroudsburg University.

Scholar Centered Objectives

- **Increase:**
 - **Developmental mechanisms, GPA**
 - **Associate degree completion**
 - **Rate of 4 semester baccalaureate completion.**
 - **Addressing the transfer deficit**
 - ✦ *“Transfer students on average lose about 40 percent of their credits when they enroll at a private college, compared to only 20 percent when they enroll at a public college” (Inside Higher Ed)*

Clear Path



- **120 Scholars**
- **Scholars supported at community college and at ESU**
- **Investigate relationship between support and increased academic success**
 - **Refine support mechanisms for maximum effect**

Student Support



- **Financial**
- **Academic**
 - Tutoring
 - Developmental (success seminars)
 - **Advising**
- **Mentoring**
- **Cohort Activities**

Demographics



	Clear Path (%)	ESU STEM (%)
Underrepresented Minorities	28	19
Women	45	34
Men	55	65
Non traditional	47	26
First Generation	24	38.5
Pell Eligible	53	28

Demographics



Major	Number
Biotechnology/ Chemical Biotechnology	10
Biochemistry	22
Chemistry	5
Computer Science/ Computer Security	23
Environmental Science	30
Marine Science	5
Mathematics	17
Physics	6

Interventions



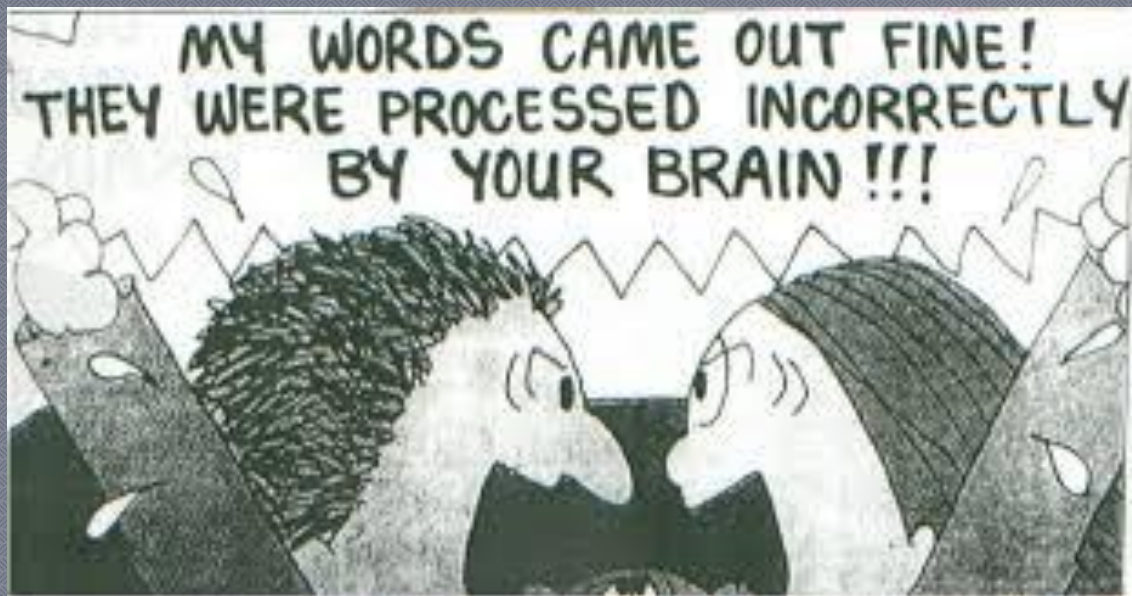
- Facilitating Developmental Mechanism Growth
 - PDA advising
 - Success Seminars
 - Common Language
 - High Impact Practices



Common Language



- From community college to ESU
 - We speak the same language
 - All participants, liaisons, tutors, mentors trained in terminology



Evolutionary Process

PDA Advising



PDA advising - PI lead

“Required” of all scholars”

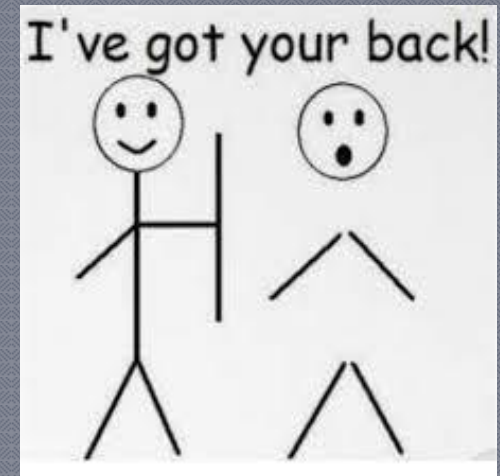
- Practical Proactive
- Developmental
- **Advocacy**



CP Advising Model Evolving



- Proactive – address predicted problems
- Developmental - become a better student
 - Success Seminars
 - Promote growth in developmental mechanisms
 - Develop metacognition
- Advocacy – we have their backs
 - Evolving process



It's Working!

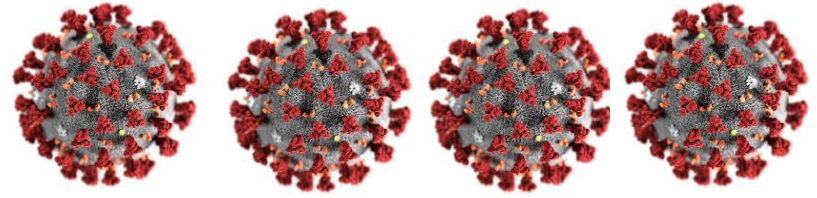


Successes



- **Retention: 88% vs. 69%**
 - 88% of the 111 scholars with at least one semester completed at ESU have been retained to date.
 - ESU's 2017-2018 retention rate: 69%
- **Graduation: 80.5 % vs. 52%**
 - 41 scholars graduated (cohorts 1 & 2)
 - ✦ four semesters post ESU matriculation - 80.5%
 - From 2001-2011 51.98% of ESU transfer students completed their bachelor's degree in four semesters

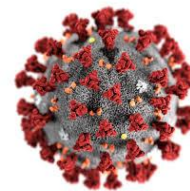
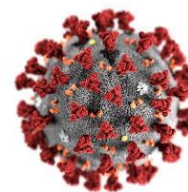
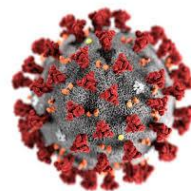
And Then ...



- No return from spring break
- All classes/laboratories etc. immediately transitioned to online
- Students moved out of dorms
- Campus closed for nearly 3 months
- Limited reopening to staff in May/June

- ESU Online summer
- ESU Online fall
 - minimal student presence on campus

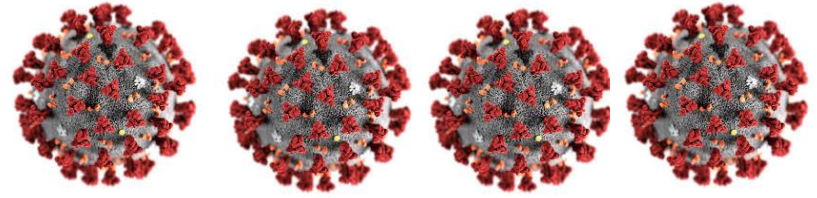
Clear Path Goes Virtual



We moved our operations online

- Virtual Success Seminar -
 - *Professional Future Sense of Self*
- Virtual Scholar Meetings
 - every Tues 2PM, Wed 8:30 PM, Sun 7PM
- Virtual Mentor Meetings
 - every Thurs 7PM, Sat 7PM
- Virtual Scholar advising
 - by appointment or open zoom hours
- Peer
 - Mentoring , Tutoring

Impacts of...



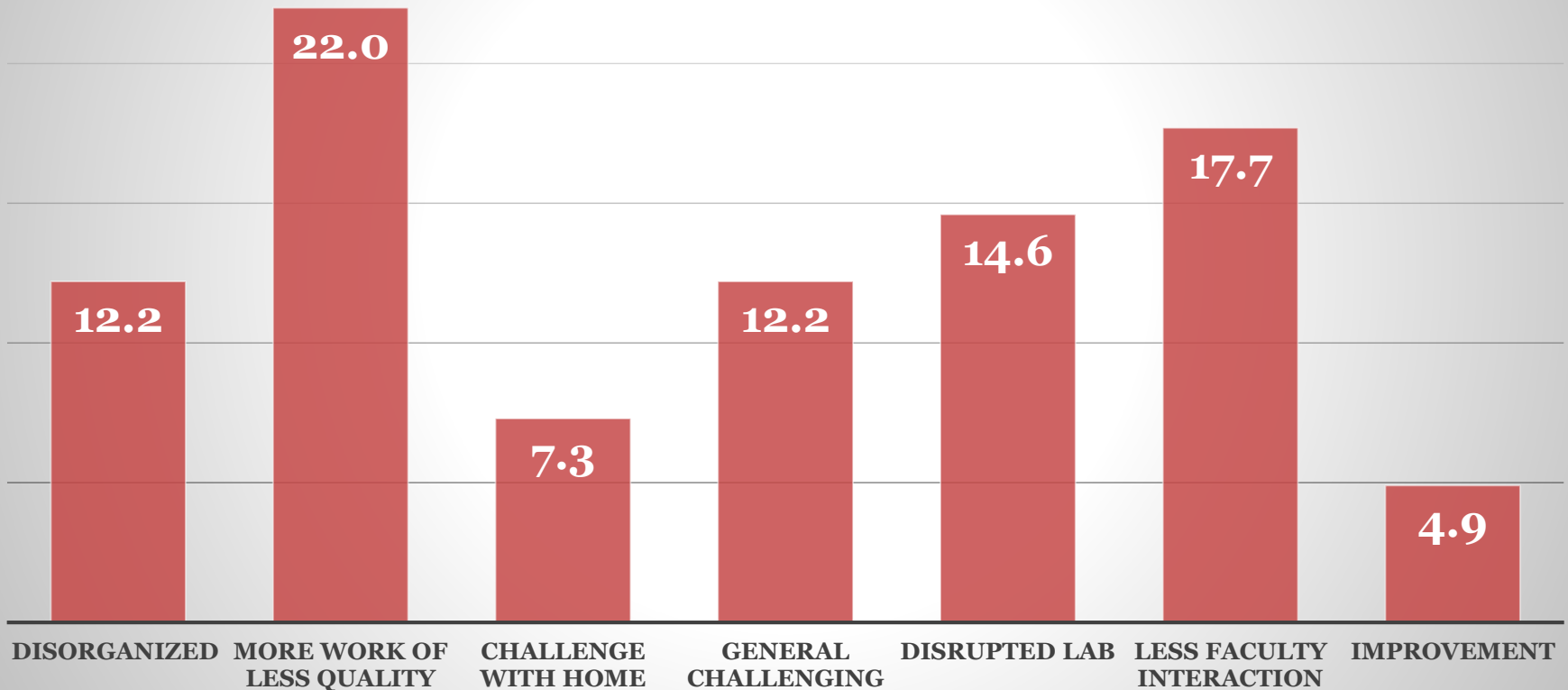
Student Support Evolution - *Weekly Teas*

- Scheduled success seminars - one right after COVID closure
- Students were “numb”
 - Less than a quarter had completed the pre-success seminar assignment.
- Being responsive
 - Pivot to Stress Coping (the success seminar from November 2019)
- Students requested that Stress Coping strategies continue
 - Weekly “tea” for students to talk about how they were doing.
- Sessions -5 minute lesson: stress coping, help seeking behavior, or self advocacy followed by open discussion
- Touchstone
 - Students report that it gave them a sense of normalcy and not being alone in their struggles.

Student Reported Data



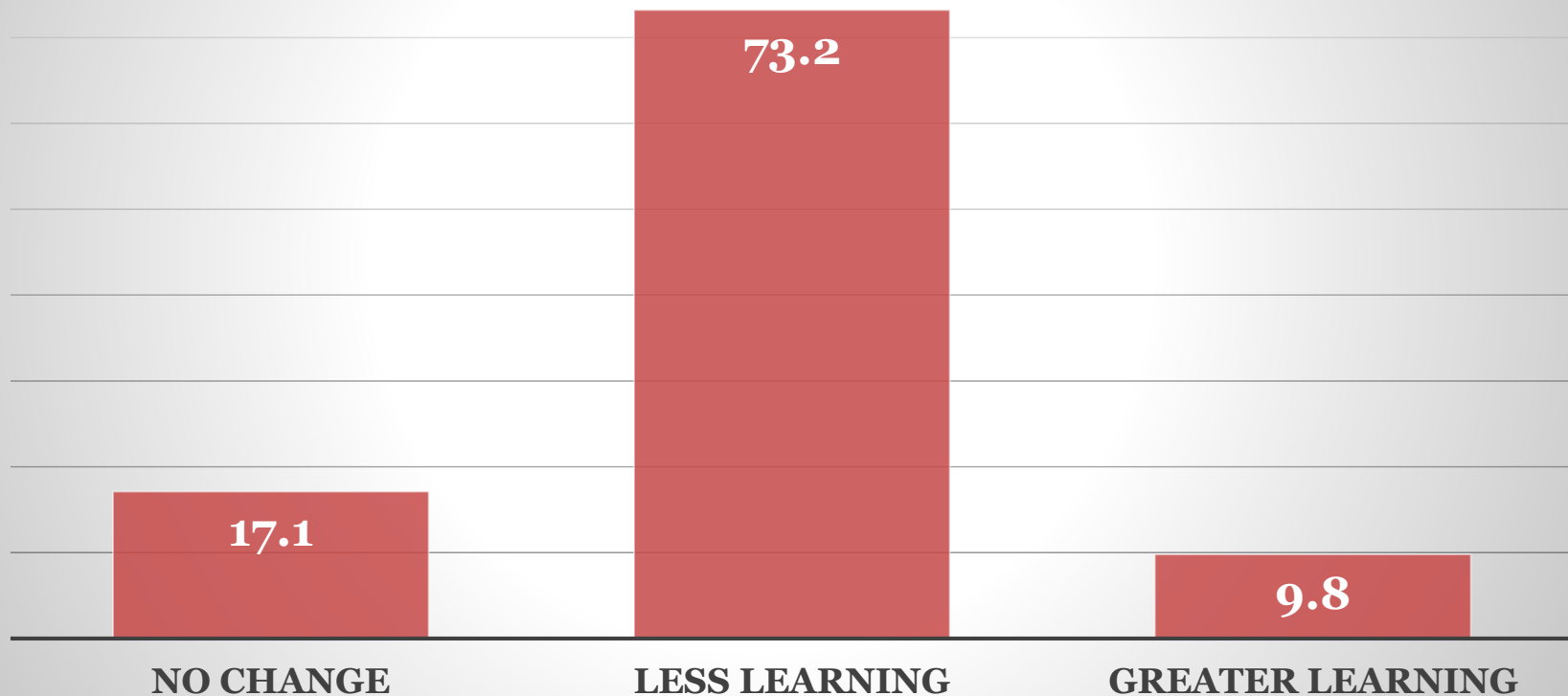
Pre/Post COVID Changes in STEM Courses



Student Reported Data



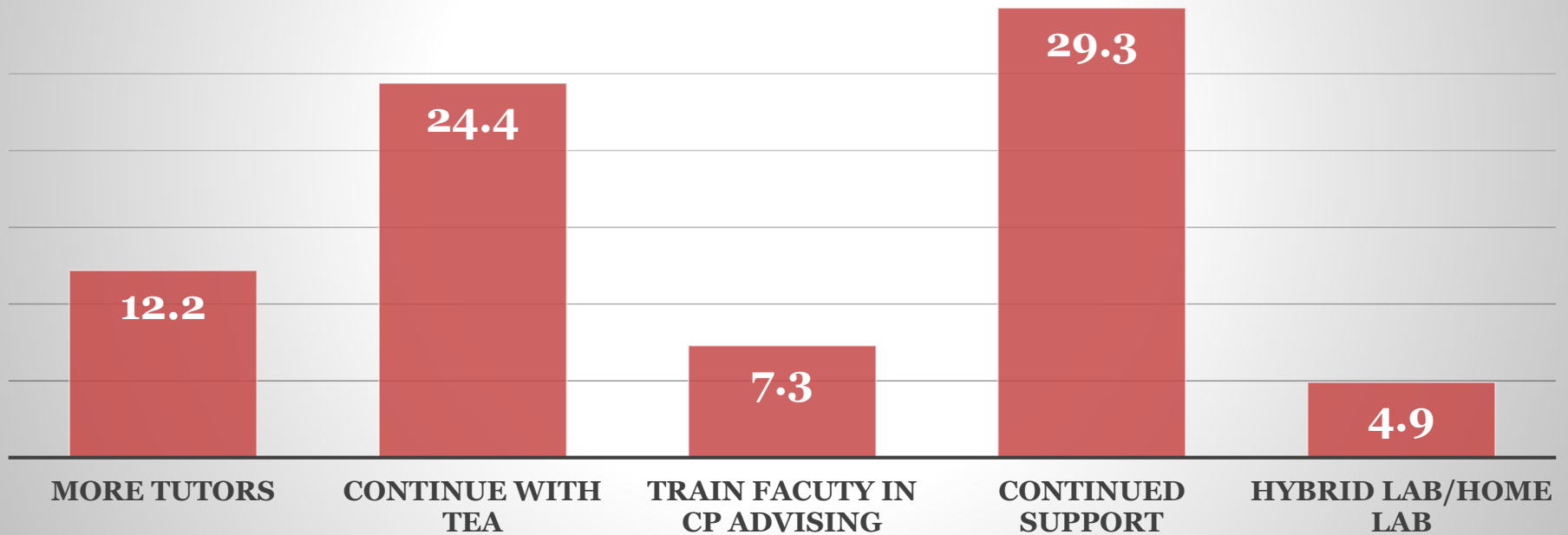
**How did COVID changes
impact your learning?**



Student Suggestions



What should be done during COVID to facilitate STEM student success



Just Carry on...



Scholars felt:

- supported through Clear Path
 - when asked what could be done to improve their success, they said

“Keep on doing what we are doing with faculty advising, mentoring, Success Seminars “

- Clear Path should specifically train other faculty on the types of advising we use in Clear Path.



Modifications...



- Tutoring challenge
 - Wait time to tutoring increased as peer tutors struggled with their own work load.
- Success Seminar evolution
- Planning virtual events
- Increased opportunities for interaction

And...It's still working...



- Spring 2020 – Fall 2020 Retention

89%

- GPA – holding steady and strong
 - 3.147 mean; 3.349 median (overall)
 - 2.862 mean; 3.405 median (Spring admits)

What is Advocacy Advising?



- Campus navigation
- Career counseling
- “Life” navigation
- Social services referrals
- Transfer assistance
- Reverse transfer help
- Communication conduit
- Touchstone



Why is it working?



- PDA Advising model is evolving to meet environmental conditions
 - Advocacy becoming paramount?
 - ✦ As more problems arise there are greater needs
 - ✦ Housing, food and job insecurity
 - Survey data show the need for support
 - CP Advisors serve as a touchstone for students
- At risk scholars receive extra advising
- CP Students feel connected to campus and connected to the CP community (84% matriculate to ESU)

Transfer is the new path to the BS

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Print

How COVID Could Impact Transfer

The COVID-19 pandemic has created uncertainty about what will happen next. Experts say colleges need to improve transfer relationships now to stay afloat in this crisis.

By **Madeline St. Amour** // September 25, 2020



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Acknowledgements



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Please Submit your Questions

