WSU TRIO SSS
SIA Grant Report
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Purpose:

- To help close the achievement gap in MN and at WSU
- Stop summer learning losses
- Propel students toward higher achievement
- Improve retention and graduation
Strategy: To develop an online summer bridge program to be included in our SSS reapplication

- **2014-2015** to be spent developing the online summer bridge program
  - Working with TLT to develop the technology support
  - Identifying learning goals
  - Developing the activities
  - Creating assessment

- **2015-2016** to be spent actually implementing the proposal
  - Fall survey from current students
  - Summer 2016 working with the first cohort of SSS students starting at June registration 2016
Major Development of 2014-15

Finding a study at Stanford University that meets the Requirements set forth in our grant application for “evidence based practices”

“A Brief Social-Belonging Intervention Improves Academic and Health Outcomes of Minority Students” (Walton and Cohen)
Proven Results

- GPA averages of African American Students participating rose over time
- Percentage of participating students earning GPA’s in the top 25% of their class increased
- Percentage performing in the bottom 25% was reduced
- The Stanford intervention closed the 3 year GPA minority gap by an astounding 52%
- Three years after the intervention students were still enrolled and reported less belonging uncertainty, self-doubt and tendency to associate their college experiences with racial stereotypes.
What will participating students do?

- 25 randomly selected students will be asked to read a narrative on social adversity and review the ostensible results from a survey of older SSS students at WSU on this subject. The survey results will describe how social adversity and a lack of a sense of belonging was common to students entering college and due to the challenging nature of matriculation.

- Students will be asked to write an essay describing how their own experiences in college echo those in the survey. They will be asked to turn the essay into a speech and deliver it before a camera. They will be told that these materials will be used to help future students.

- They will be asked to complete surveys during this week and after three years.
For the balance of the summer and fall the 25 students will be asked to participate in a number of activities online including formation of a social cohort, working with SSS advisors weekly, and generating survey data to be used for the next group of students entering in the summer of 2017.

Goal: to have the same results as the Stanford study and to show that this program works online.
If all goes well we will know on **August 10th** that we have SSS funding for another 5 years and we can begin with the first steps of the new on line summer bridge program.

If you would like our full report or grant application just contact: kzeiher @winona.edu or gkellom@winona.edu