# Overview: CCC Financial Wellness Initiative

Ruby Nieto

Student Financial Aid Programs, Chancellor's Office Maria Grando, M.S.

Title V Grant Coordinator, Allan Hancock College





# Agenda

- Background
- Partnerships
- Focus: Train-the-Trainer
- Allan Hancock College, federal Title V grant recipient
  - Overview of their campus personal financial wellness program
- Next steps for you



# **Trivia:** Questions and Answers from Trellis 2021 National Survey

- Method most used to pay for college?
  - A. Self-help
  - B. Family support
  - C. Grants
  - D. Credit/Loans

- Current Employment 61%
- Personal Savings 54%



- Percent of students indicating they worry about being able to pay monthly expenses:
  - A. 10%
  - B. 35%
  - C. 50%



- Percent of students indicating they worry about having enough money to pay for school:
  - A. 20%
  - B. 40%
  - C. 61%



- Would use financial support services (such as one-on-one coaching from a trained expert) if offered by my school:
  - A. 15%
  - B. 25%
  - C. 62%

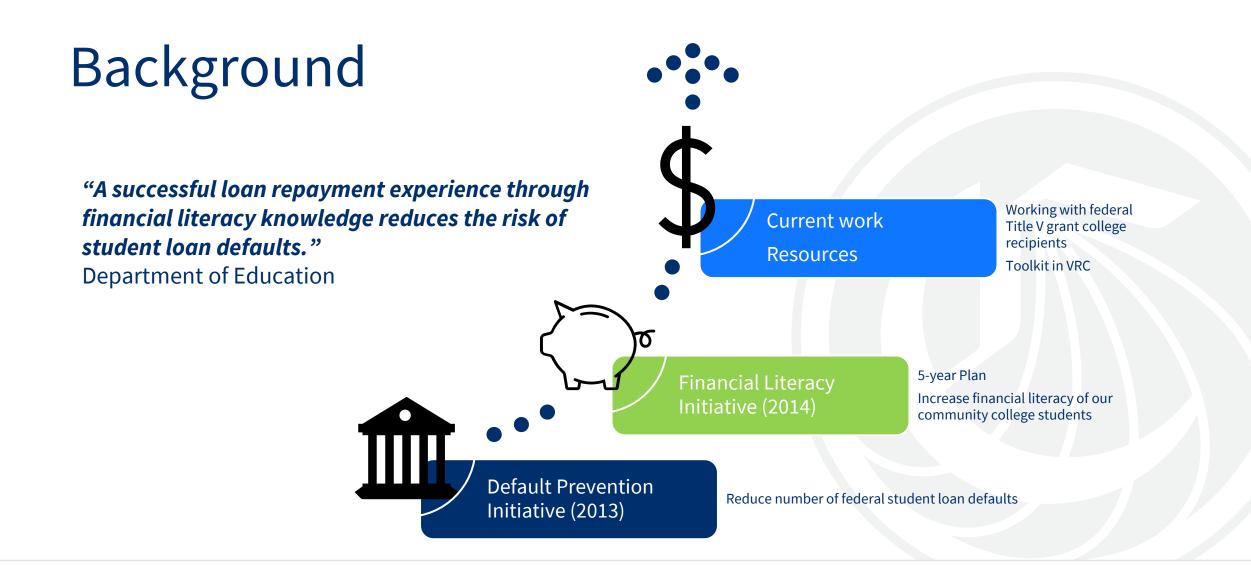


- Percent of students who have experienced financial difficulties or challenges:
  - A. 71%
  - B. 48%
  - C. 12%



- Percent of students indicating number of times they ran out of money:
  - A. 10%
  - B. 71%
  - C. 29%
- Percent of students indicating number of times they did borrow money from a family member and/or friends:
  - A. 61%
  - B. 39%
  - C. 25%



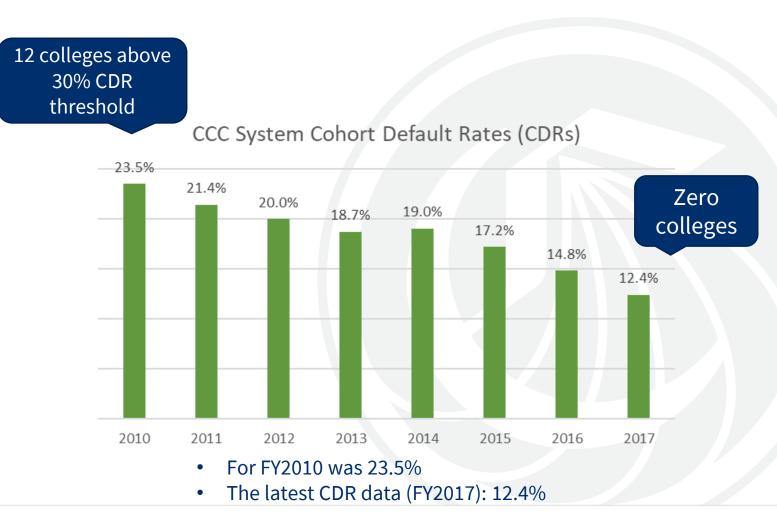




### Background

#### **Default Prevention Initiative**

- Started in the summer of 2013
- Goal: mitigate high federal student loan default rates, called CDR or Cohort Default Rate
- We had 12 colleges above the Department of Education's threshold





# Vision for Success

- Both the Vision for Success and the Financial Wellness Initiative share same objectives:
  - Student retention
  - Program completion
  - Target certain underrepresented student populations
- Financial education can help drive student success way beyond college
  - Life skill
  - <u>www.aplushappiness.org</u>



# APLUS Early Findings

Practicing proactive financial behaviors have a protective effect

#### Financial Capability is a life-long process.

Positive financial socialization contributes to positive change young adults' thinking and behavior regarding finances.

Early financial knowledge plays a small but lasting role in minimizing risky financial behaviors.

# Partnerships

- National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE)
  - Champions effective financial education
  - Four decades dedicated to the public good
  - <u>https://www.nefe.org/about/default.aspx</u>
- Jump\$tart Coalition
  - Allowed us to use their Train-the-Trainer materials
  - Non-profit committed to advancing youth financial literacy
  - https://www.jumpstart.org/who-we-are/about/
- WISE
  - Financial Literacy Certification
  - Non-profit providing financial education
  - https://www.wise-ny.org/about/
- Trellis
  - Non-profit with the dual mission to help student borrowers successfully repay their education loans and promoting access in higher education
  - <u>https://www.trelliscompany.org/</u>



### **Future Partnerships**

- Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE)
  - Organization for survey research, focus group work, and related services to community colleges
  - <u>https://cccse.org/</u>



### Focus of the Initiative: Trainthe-Trainer Curriculum

#### **SPRING 2022 Training**

- Monthly personal financial wellness webinars for staff
- Train-the-Trainer: 4-week course for staff
  - 6 sections in April 2022
  - 4 sections in June 2022
  - 40 participants per section

#### **ANNUAL Training**

• Annual on-site professional training, 1.5 days

#### **PAST Trainings**

- Jump\$tart webinar series
- WISE training and testing
- Financial Wellness Summit

Program	Registered
Training	
Jump\$tart Webinar Series	169
WISE Training and Tests	82
Financial Wellness Summit (Norcal and Socal)	244
On-Site Training - Annual Hands-On Training Workshops	222
	717
Web-based Modules and Resources	
NEFE's Cashcourse Participation	90 colleges
National Survey Participation	
2017 OSU The Study on Collegiate Financial Wellness	
(SCFW)	15 colleges
2017 Making Ends Meet	17 colleges

# **Recent Projects**

- Two-year Pilot Program Ended Spring 2021
  - Using texting/email financial education campaign
    - Results were encouraging
    - Students who opt in have better GPAs and retention rates from term to term
- Working with federal Title V community colleges Began 2021
  - Developed and delivering Train-the-Trainer presentations
    - Includes staff, faculty and students
  - Developed a financial education course in CANVAS
    - It may be use as non-credit course



Financial Wellness Toolkit for Colleges

- CANVAS course
  - One course with 15 parts
  - May be used as non-credit
  - May use all or some of the 15 parts
- Texting Platform Initiative
  - Will have a template that include:
    - Implementation steps
    - Identifying data
    - Self-evaluation data analysis
- Recorded webinars
  - High-touch Train-the-Trainer
- 5 things parents and students should know about financial management
- Free consultant support



Train-the-trainer: 4-week course for student workers

# Expanding Financial Wellness





CashCourse

Make it available again to all 116 colleges

### Overall Basic Needs Insecurity – Fall 2021

- 59% of respondents experienced at least one basic needs insecurity (food insecurity *or* housing insecurity *or* homelessness)
- 30% of respondents experienced food insecurity and housing insecurity
- 10% of respondents experienced food insecurity and housing insecurity and homelessness



- Allan Hancock College Santa Maria, CA
  - Hispanic-Serving Institution (student LatinX populaton is higher than 60%)
  - First-generation college students, incoming freshmen, transfer students, non-traditional students, under-served populations
  - City poverty level is higher than national average
  - Rural community surrounded by farms, the edge of Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County (the college and hospital are focal points for resources and support)
  - There has been and is an ongoing need for financial wellness education



- In partnership with the CA Community College Chancellor's Office
  - FREE financial wellness education content!
    - PowerPoints with credible information
    - 15-week asynchronous Canvas course
    - Facilitators willing to go the extra mile and adjust presentations based off feedback
    - Workshops for students, staff and faculty
    - Text message initiative (20 text messages over the span of 2 weeks)
- Student reception
  - Progress takes one day at a time
  - Workshops not well attended (unless incentivized, required and interactive)
  - Text messaging had positive response



- Data obtained
  - Students struggle with survey fatigue
  - Feedback surveys said information was helpful and they enjoyed the workshops
  - No criticism sometimes can be a bad thing
- Challenges and Achievements
  - Students are busy, tired and stressed targeted workshops are needed
  - Students respond well to information being sent directly to them
  - Students appreciate media formats they already use (Instagram, TikTok)
  - Students respond well to games and incentives (and food!)



- Plans moving forward
  - Strategically work with specific learning communities for content, scheduling and types of workshops
    - Ex: evening workshops for student parents, relevant examples for first-generation students
    - Ex: Collaborate with Student Ambassadors, Student Government, Professional Development courses, CAN-TRIO, Financial Aid and Basic Needs
  - Run additional pilots for text messaging initiative
  - Develop social media content that students will see as relevant and relatable (students educating other students)
  - Incorporate financial wellness education into the new student orientation



# National Recognition

- 2017 NASFAA Gold Star Award Winner
  - The Gold Star Award recognizes innovative ideas in the financial aid arena at any level, targeted toward any constituency. Up to three ideas are recognized each year.
  - The California Community College Chancellor's Office for "California Community Chancellor's Office Financial Literacy Initiative."
  - NASFAA: National Association of Financial Aid Administrators
  - <u>https://www.nasfaa.org/Historical Winners Gold Star Award</u>



# Next Steps For You

- Effective financial wellness = Student Success
- Free CCCCO training and consulting available to help all California community colleges deliver personal financial wellness to students
- Chancellor's Office working on getting free financial wellness tools available to all California community college students
  - CashCourse, <u>https://www.cashcourse.org/</u>
- Start the financial wellness conversation on your campus today!





# Questions

#### "It's not about the power of money. It's about the power of knowledge."

Bill Daniels, founder of Young Americans Bank

#### **Ruby Nieto**

Student Financial Aid Programs Chancellor's Office

<u>rnieto@cccco.edu</u>

Maria Grando, M.S. Title V Grant Coordinator Allan Hancock College <u>maria.grando@hancockcollege.edu</u>



