Introduction to the Aid Success Project

Fullerton College

Fullerton College is participating in the Aid Success Project, which is operating at three community colleges in southern California. The study is being managed by the MDRC, a nonprofit, social policy research group, and The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS). The project is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

For questions, please contact:

Greg Ryan of Fullerton College at (714) 992-7103 or gryan@fullcoll.edu.
Michelle Ware of MDRC at (800) 221-3165 or michelle.ware@mdrc.org

Who are MDRC and TICAS?
MDRC is a nonprofit, social policy research group dedicated to learning what works to improve the well-being of low-income and minority populations. TICAS is an independent, nonprofit organization that works to make higher education more available and affordable for people from all backgrounds.

What is Aid Success?
The Aid Success Project includes two interventions. "Working Smart," the intervention being conducted on the Fullerton campus, consists of an online session where students gain information about the relationship between financial aid, work hours, and academic success.

What do we hope to accomplish?
In the short term, we anticipate that the two proposed strategies will help students accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

- Apply for and receive financial aid for which they qualify.
- Utilize on-campus resources already available to them (i.e., bookstore advances, tutoring, academic counseling, etc.).
- Keep the number of work hours manageable.
- Make more informed choices about student loans and other aid options.
- Use the aid they do receive more effectively.

If the strategies are successful, we may be testing the two strategies at more colleges in California and other states in 2012.

For more information, visit www.mdrc.org, or www.ticas.org