Re-thinking Data Collection for Evaluation and Program Improvement

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Welcome!
Session Overview

- Introductions

- Common Challenges

- Team Session - Overcoming Challenges

- Solution Sharing and Discussion

- Q & A
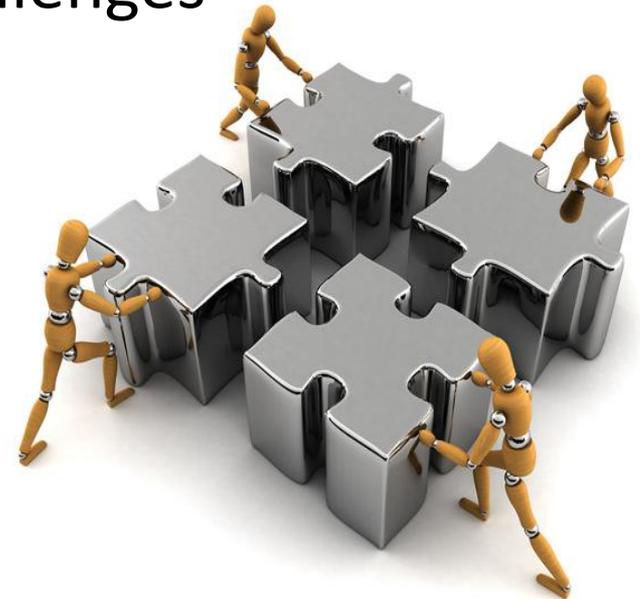
Who We Are
CoBro Consulting

✓ CoBro Consulting is a research and consulting firm providing data management and evaluation services for college access programs nationwide.

- Data management via Compass and CompassMatch
- Program evaluation
- Statistical data analysis
- Survey design, analysis, & reporting
- Comprehensive annual and biennial evaluation reports

Who We Are
CoBro Consulting

Data Management Tools Created by CoBro Consulting:

- ✓ **Compass** is a secure student tracking system and database management tool that expedites data entry, runs reports and analyses, and generates APR data tables at the click of a button.
- ✓ **CompassMatch** is an in-kind contribution management system that allows you to easily record, calculate, and run reports of matching funds.

CoBro Consulting currently serves 33 GEAR UP state and partnership programs, nation-wide.

Who We Are
GEAR UP Idaho

- ✓ Grant period: 2011
- ✓ Total award: $22,769,208
- ✓ Average annual budget: $3,252,744
- ✓ Implementation Model: Cohort
- ✓ Current Students Served: 5400

Who We Are
GEAR UP Idaho
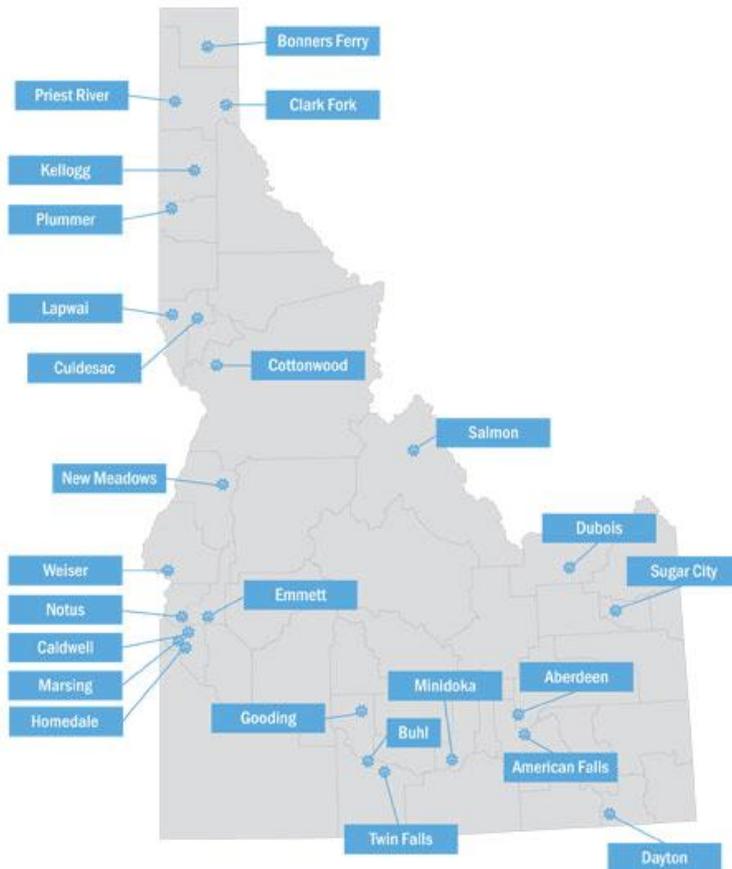
Currently serving 25 School Districts across the state

Partner with 11 Post-Secondary Institutions:

- *North Idaho College*
- *Lewis-Clark State College*
- *College of Southern Idaho*
- *Eastern Idaho Technical College*
- *University of Idaho*
- *Boise State University*
- *Idaho State University*
- *BYU Idaho*
- *Northwest Nazarene University*
- *College of Idaho*
- *College of Western Idaho*

Who We Are
GEAR UP Idaho

Services:

- ✓ Student enrollment in rigorous and challenging coursework
- ✓ Administration and implementation of ACT's College Readiness System (EXPLORE, PLAN, ACT)
- ✓ STEM Tutoring
- ✓ Financial aid and financial literacy
- ✓ College awareness activities
- ✓ Career awareness activities
- ✓ Individual secondary and postsecondary planning sessions (academic counseling)
- ✓ Parent, family and community activities
- ✓ Professional development

Who are <u>You</u>?
(GEAR UP Session Participants)

- ✓ Are you new to GEAR UP?
- ✓ What year was your grant awarded?
- ✓ Have you been with GEAR UP for more than a year?
- ✓ ...more than five?

A lot of collective knowledge in the room!

Session Outcomes

- Understand common barriers to effective evaluation and "re-think" how to overcome them.

- Acquire tools and resources to be proactive against common evaluation challenges that may be encountered during program implementation.

- Leave with a network of peers to use as a resource in effective evaluation strategies.

Trend in Federal Data Requirements

✓ In recent years, federal programs have embraced a common theme of data-driven decision making and the creation of a culture of evidence to promote formative program improvement.

✓ However, there are many challenges in gathering accurate and timely data, interpreting evaluation findings, and using the results to inform program decisions.

Why is this important?

✓ Accurate and timely data is needed to:

1. Ensure compliance with ED requirements and program administration.

2. Examine program processes and promote continuous improvement.

3. Inform stakeholders of the effectiveness of GEAR UP and the services it provides.

Common Barriers

✓ Program components that often present challenges to effective evaluation:

- Administering & Processing Surveys
- Collecting Service Participation Data
- Collecting Student-Level Academic Data
- Completing the APR
- Using Data to Inform Decision Making

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Common Challenge:

Collecting accurate and timely data

Data Collection

✓ It is essential to have a way to accurately manage data, record services provided to students, and generate reports or export data that can be used for evaluation of the program.

✓ The most efficient way to do this is through a data management system designed to manage GEAR UP student demographic, academic and services data.

Compass System
Data Management Tool

- ✓ CoBro Consulting's Compass System expedites data entry, organizes program data and generates real time reports. In addition, the system conducts statistical analysis to evaluate program success.

- ✓ Benefits of the Compass System for your Program:
  - Assists in entering and maintain student academic data. Data can be electronically transferred into the system.
  - Provides services and activity data entry screens designed for speed and accuracy that eliminate time-consuming hand entry.
  - Collects, organizes and automatically computes data for required ED reports and beyond.

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Challenge:

Who is responsible for supplying the data at the district level and what is the time frame in which data is provided?

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Solution:

- ✓ One point of contact
- ✓ Creating a report at the state level
- ✓ Setting 1 date

Other Common Challenges

What are common evaluation barriers you have encountered during GEAR UP program implementation?

Team Brainstorming

How can we "rethink" and overcome these common barriers to be able to use data effectively?

Collective Knowledge

How did you "re-think" these challenges?

Tap into the collective knowledge of the GEAR UP community.

Questions? Thoughts?

THANK YOU!

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