

**What Matters in Academic and Student Affairs Partnerships:
Good Practices for Student Success**

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Session Purposes

- To provide an overview of the contexts in which calls for AA-SA partnerships have arisen: reform of undergraduate education, research on student success and engagement.
- To describe results of the Boyer Partnership Assessment Project, a study of AA-SA partnership programs at 18 colleges and universities, with a specific focus on good practices.
- To identify and discuss implications of this research for practice.

Principles of Good Practice for Academic and Student Affairs Partnerships

1. Good practice reflects and advances the institution's mission.
2. Good practice embodies and fosters a learning-oriented ethos.
3. Good practice builds on and nurtures relationships.
4. Good practice recognizes, understands, and attends to institutional culture.
5. Good practice values and implements assessment.
6. Good practice uses resources creatively and effectively.

"Lessons" and Implications

1. Know your context (and yourself).
2. Focus on student learning and success.
3. Take advantage of opportunities – existing relationships, existing conditions.
4. Engage in outcomes assessment.
5. Expect partnerships to be a lot of work (and conflict).
6. "Keep your eyes on the prize": Effective partnerships are about students and their learning.
7. AA-SA partnerships aren't always necessary.

Selected Resources

- American Association for Higher Education (AAHE), American College Personnel Association (ACPA), & National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). (1998). *Powerful partnerships: A shared responsibility for learning*. Washington, DC: American College Personnel Association.
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