

From Freshman Orientation to First-Year Experience: *A National Survey of the First-Year Experience (FYE) at HBCUs*

Clarissa Myrick-Harris, PhD

OWA INSTITUTE

LaDonte King

LAUNCH Student Success

HBCU Faculty Development Network Conference

November 2, 2017

Hilton Doubletree Hotel

Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia



OWA
INSTITUTE
A Division of OWA, Inc



LAUNCH
Success Strategies for the First Year Experience

GOALS OF PRESENTATION

In This Session, we will:

- Explain purpose/goals/objectives of the survey project
- Define and discuss First-Year Experience Concept
- Provide overview of existing National Survey of First-Year Experience (Previously First-Year Seminars)
- Answer Question: Why a National Survey of the First-Year Experience at HBCUs?
- Explain Methodology of Proposed Survey
- Get Your Input on 'Survey Methodology' and 'Survey Content'
- Survey Advisors
- Q & A



PURPOSE OF PLANNED SURVEY

The purpose/goals of a web-based National Survey of the First-Year Experience (FYE) at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are:

- ▶ To document the existence of initiatives at HBCUs that have been intentionally created to help ensure a smooth transition of first-time freshmen, transfer students, and/or non-traditional adult learners into post-secondary learning environments
- ▶ To characterize and categorize the range of approaches to FYE implemented at these institutions
- ▶ To discover best and promising practices, successes and challenges to implementation of FYEs at HBCUs
- ▶ To provide results of the survey to the higher education community, but especially to HBCUs themselves to encourage ongoing peer learning, sharing and collaboration to enhance student success at these institutions individually and HBCUs collectively. While the results from the survey primarily will be shared in aggregate form, we will invite institutions with exemplary programs to be presented as case studies in the survey report



SURVEY OBJECTIVES

Objective One:

- ▶ At least 35 percent of the 101 existing, regionally accredited HBCUs (35 institutions) will participate in the FYE-HBCUs Survey by the end of the administration period in mid-April 2018 to confirm that they do or do not have in place a seminar, extended orientation course, or other type of experience for new students **examples might include mentoring; training (study skills), etc.**

Objective Two:

- ▶ By the end of August 2018, the FYE-HYBCU research team will complete analysis of data gathered in the survey to determine the specific kinds of FYEs offered at the institutions participating in the study (seminar, extended orientation course, common reading experience, learning communities, multi-method, etc.)



SURVEY OBJECTIVES

Objective Three

- ▶ By end of August 2018, the FYE-HBCU research team will complete analysis of open-ended survey questions and institutional assessment data related to FYEs submitted by HBCUs participating in the study to shed light on the effectiveness of their FYE initiatives

Objective Four

- ▶ By end of October 2018, the FYE-HBCUs research team will complete a review of available IPEDs data that document the freshman to sophomore retention rate of HBCUs participating in the survey.

Objective Five

- ▶ By February 2019, results of the survey will be widely disseminated via a report, dedicated website that includes a platform for an online HBCU-FYE Community of Practice, digital version of the report, journal articles, and conference presentations. Results especially will be targeted to key stakeholders at HBCUs, the broader higher education community, higher education organizations, governmental funding agencies and private foundations



The First-Year Experience:* What is it?

- ▶ When does “the first-year experience” truly begin?
- ▶ Early outreach
- ▶ Community relationships
- ▶ Transfer students (lateral, reverse, “swirling”)
- ▶ Dual enrollment programs
- ▶ Bridge Programs
- ▶ Admissions

*Note: ‘First-Year Experience’ (FYE) is a term officially copyrighted by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition. Some of the information in this section was obtained from the Center.



The First-Year Experience: What is it? (cont'd)

What do we mean when we say “first-year experience”?

- ▶ Comprehensive
- ▶ Intentional
- ▶ Integrated
- ▶ Flexible
- ▶ Systemic
- ▶ Organizationally horizontal
- ▶ Student-centered



FYE: A Working Definition

“The first-year experience is not a single program or initiative, but rather an intentional combination of academic and co-curricular efforts within and across postsecondary institutions.”

(Koch & Gardner, 2006)



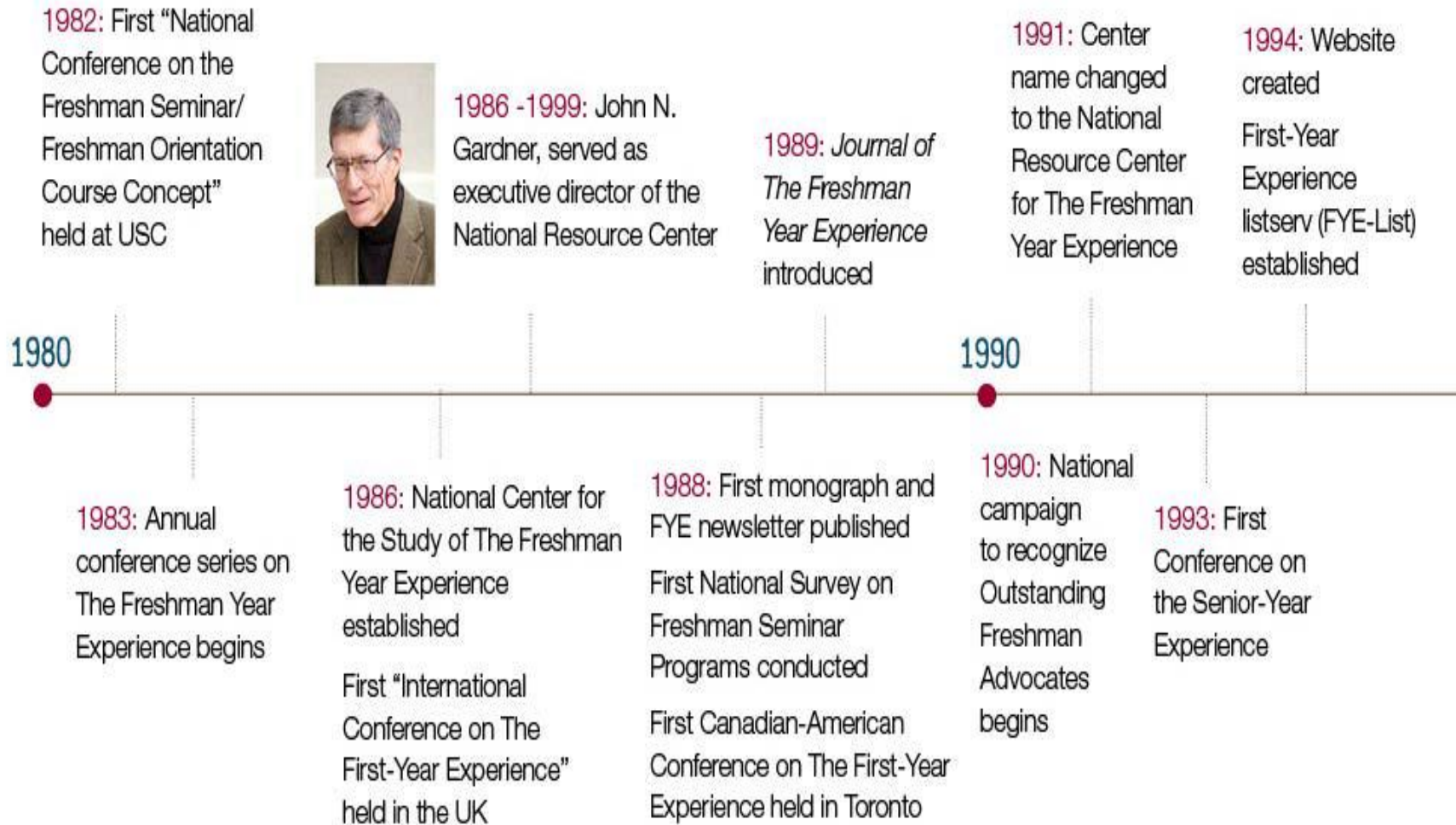
Origins of FYE at University of South Carolina

FYE: Foundations and Beginnings

- ▶ Student activism and a riot at the University of South Carolina in Spring 1970
- ▶ University 101 was created by President Thomas Jones
- ▶ Strong social justice undertones
- ▶ Teach students to “love” the university



ORIGINS OF FYE AT USC (CONT'D)



THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS

The National Survey of First Year Experiences (until 2017 called National Survey on First-Year Seminars) was originally developed and administered by the *National Resource Center: First Year Experience and Students In Transition at the University of South Carolina*. It has been administered triennially since that time. The most recent report of results from the 2012-2013 Survey was published in 2014. The last survey was administered earlier this year and will be published in early 2019. Nearly all accredited 2-year, 4-year colleges and universities with undergraduate degree programs in the U.S.—including HBCUs—are invited to participate in the survey.



OWA
INSTITUTE
A Division of OWA, Inc



LAUNCH
Success Strategies for the First Year Experience

Why a Survey of FYEs at HBCUs?

- ▶ The planned baseline survey will augment and complement rather than duplicate the triennial National Survey of First Year Experiences (originally called National Survey on First- Year Seminars) by the National Resource Center: First Year Experience and Students In Transition. Although 22 of then 105 HBCUs responded to the 2012-2013 survey—approximately 20 percent of HBCUs—the results for these institutions is aggregated with data for all institutions with 2-year and 4 year undergraduate programs. (A total of 889 higher education institutions responded to the 2012-2013 survey)
- ▶ Only 11 of 101 HBCUs completed the 2017 survey—approximately 11 percent of all HBCUs. And again, there is no plan to disaggregate the data in a way that would shed greater light on what's going on at HBCUs as a group when it comes to initiatives for first year students.



WHY PARTICIPATE? A National Imperative

“America cannot lead in the 21st century unless we have the best educated, most competitive workforce in the world.” You might also decide to quote a corporate leader and replace one of these.

President Barack Obama

Remarks on Higher Education, 2009

“By 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world... So tonight I ask every American to commit to at least one year or more of higher education or career training... every American will need to get more than a high school diploma.”

President Barack Obama

Address to Joint Session of Congress

February 24, 2009



OWA
INSTITUTE
A Division of OWA, Inc



LAUNCH
Success Strategies for the First Year Experience

EMPHASIS: RETENTION, COMPLETION--SUCCESS

- ▶ In 2009, the Lumina Foundation pledged to increase the proportion of Americans with high-quality degrees, certificates and other credentials to 60 percent by 2025. This target, known as “Goal 2025,” is an outcomes based approach to establish an equitable, accessible, responsive and accountable higher education system while fostering a national sense of urgency for action to achieve the goal.
- ▶ The Gates Foundation set an ambitious goal to help the nation double the number of low-income adults who earn postsecondary degrees or credentials—meaningful credentials with value in the workplace and labor market—by age 26. To accomplish this, America must connect the millions of young Americans who have the will to get the education they need with a way to get there.
- ▶ The UNCF Career Pathways Initiative, supported by the Lilly Foundation, focuses on assisting HBCUs and PBIs in establishing initiatives and/or enhancing existing programs to ensure students have a firm curricular and co-curricular foundation that prepares them for completion of undergraduate degrees—and to move directly into careers or graduate study after graduation.



A Seat at the Table, And Support To Grow and Sustain Programs

Potential Funders want Good Data on the successes of HBCUs' student success initiatives as well as thoughtful studies that accurately present opportunities for strengthening and enhancing the efforts of our institutions. **Anything about attracting students, etc.?**



OWA
INSTITUTE
A Division of OWA, Inc



LAUNCH
Success Strategies for the First Year Experience

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

- ▶ Research Team Adopting and Adapting The National Survey for First-Year Seminars Instrument (MOU with the Center)
http://sc.edu/fye/research/surveys/survey_instruments/pdf/NSFYS%202012-13-Questionnaire.pdf
- ▶ Developing additional survey items to better understand unique features, successes, challenges of FYEs at HBCUs
- ▶ Survey will be administered online and be primarily be comprised of objective questions (e.g. multiple choice, Likert rating scale). However, the survey will also contain open questions that will require subjective answers from respondents.



SURVEY METHODOLOGY

DATA COLLECTION

- ▶ All 101 currently accredited HBCUs will be invited to participate in the survey via email communication to the President, Chief Academic Officer, Vice President for Student Affairs, and designated director of each institution's First Year Experience initiative. Prior to launching of Survey, the FYE directors and their administrative support person will be invited to participate in a webinar training session to inform them about the survey content and completion procedures. **Any opportunity to include a couple of others that might be closer to the actual students?**
- ▶ Data collection will occur during a six-week period from late-February through early April 2018. Users who log in to do the survey will receive a bi-weekly email reminder to complete the survey.



SURVEY TIMELINE

November 2017- January 2018	Survey Instrument and Platform Development Review/Finalization/ IRB Process Completed
February 2018	Email Invitations to participate in Survey sent to all HBCUs (Presidents, CAOs, VP Student Affairs, Directors of FYEs
Mid-February	Email Invitation Follow ups to Directors of FYEs and Administrative Support persons at HBCUs Survey Webinar Training for FYE Directors and Administrative Support personnel
Late-February - Mid-April 2018	Survey Open for completion and submission



SURVEY TIMELINE

May - October 2018	Survey data Analysis Completed Beginning of Online HBCU FYE Communities of Practice Platform Development
October 2018	Review of IPEDS First-Year Retention Rates at HBCUs
November 2018- January 2019	Survey Report Drafts Review/Edits
February 2019	Survey Report Finalized, Published and Available for Online FYE Directors/Staff and Faculty Community of Practice Launched



We Need Your Input On

- ▶ Survey items - **do you want to be more specific?**
- ▶ Ensuring Buy-in on HBCU Campuses
- ▶ Ensuring Adequate Response Rate (35% -40% Goal)

Possible Incentives

- ▶ Other Feedback
- ▶ Additional Q&A



THANK YOU!

Clarissa Myrick-Harris, PhD

President, OWA Institute

info@owainstitute.org

www.owainstitute.org



OWA
INSTITUTE
A Division of OWA, Inc



LAUNCH
Success Strategies for the First Year Experience