



Florida Poly's Engaged Education PProject (FL Peer)
Florida Polytechnic University
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Executive Summary

Florida Poly's Engaged Education PProject (FL Peer) is a multifaceted enhancement plan that draws on student currency using peer learners, focused learning support methodology, and intentional, integrated support connections from faculty to peer leader to student learner with the objective of improving student achievement as measured by Academic Progress Rate and Graduation Rate.

Through the University's comprehensive planning and evaluation processes, strategic objectives, and mission within the State University System of Florida, the University determined that first-to-second year retention among FTICs at a 2.0 GPA or better (defined as Academic Progress Rate) stood as the critical metric to improve and the gateway to all other measures of student achievement and success.

The University's broad-based effort started with a committee representative of institutional stakeholders in learning, learning support, and instructional support, then broadened to include all University stakeholders. Through this process, the University determined that the critical piece it needs to develop is peer-led instructional support. Further research led us to metacognitive learning strategies that could be introduced in first-year courses by faculty, reinforced through guided practice by Peer Learning Strategists (PLSs), and result in students who engaged more deeply with course material and achieved greater learning acquisition in the first year and beyond.

The focus on students supporting students via faculty directed learning strategies comes at the realization that students already turn to each other to learn how to "get through a course." By training successful students in these strategies, the peer leaders could help students recognize and overcome the gap between high school and collegiate expectations for learning, required study time and effort, and the necessity and skills to begin learning independently.

The University committed substantial time and budget to ensuring a full-scale pilot program would launch in fall 2021 and has committed greater budget and effort to improve on the pilot for spring 2022, with the hope that the fall 2022 cohort will enter the University with a fully developed FL Peer program that will launch them successfully through their second year, graduation, and beyond.

Florida Poly will assess the plan via institutional metrics for course DFW rates, academic progress rate, and four-year graduation rate. These results will be disaggregated by Pell recipients to ensure that the University is advancing its mission and role in the State University System to transform Florida's economy to a high-tech, high-wage environment.