



MOON SHOT MEMO

Summer 2023

THANK YOU FROM LEADERSHIP!



It is hard to believe we are through our first full academic year of our Moon Shot for Equity. With **over 75 staff and faculty members** engaged in Moon Shot goal team work, we have been both busy and productive. The dedication and time our Moon Shot team has put into their work has been truly amazing. In this edition, we want to share some highlights of our work over this year.

Perhaps most importantly, we want to take a moment and appreciate the work of our **goal team members**, our **tri-chairs** and our **advisory board** over the course of the year. Similarly, we want to express our appreciation for the **nearly 200 individuals** who attended Equity Minded Leadership training and other Moon Shot week events this year. We know everyone at WCU is feeling the stress of the dynamic higher education landscape – including the need to make last minute adjustments to classes, to job descriptions, etc. It is a lot of change – and here you are, working with us to think about how to bring about more change – equity in student success for our institution. Thank you!



MOON SHOT WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

TLAC FACULTY DISCUSSION

- > Dispelled myths around students, admission & preparation
 - > Reviewed retention rates
 - > Addressed questions about data
 - > Discussion identifying resources for faculty support
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MISSION UPDATES

- > General updates including about work phases & what data analysis revealed
 - > Reviewed equity gaps identified by each goal team
 - > Heard progress reports from all of the goal teams
 - > Discussion was about student involvement, Navigate implementation & how to effectively integrate best practices
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NAVIGATE UPDATE

We completed our first year of Navigate (student success platform) implementation. Thank you for your work to support this process. Our goal is to use this platform to support student success and we cannot do that without your guidance. Please continue to use the various features as they roll out and keep that feedback coming! A reminder that we are bolstering the network of student success resources to ensure we can provide the appropriate support. Two of those are the Student Success and Engagement Team (SSET) and the developing Academic Support & Advocacy Center (ASA).

DIRECTOR GIVES KEYNOTE AT RECAP



Dr. Vanessa Kahen was invited to give the on-site keynote for the RECAP Conference this past May. Her presentation titled “Finding our superpower: Leveraging technology & humanity to inspire equity mindedness in student success,” explained how leveraging higher education’s appetite to adapt to advances in technology is a means to support equity-minded institutional change. The paradox is that she believes we accomplish this equity goal by leaning into uniquely human spaces, the spaces where technology is limited. This ability to leverage human cognitive and interpersonal skills that technology cannot replicate is our super-power and will distinguish the value of higher education in the future (Aoun, 2017).

MOON SHOT ALIGNED WORK



Other WCU partners have also been working on closing equity gaps in what we will call Moon Shot Aligned Work. Examples include:

- > Work of IS&T to develop a long-term laptop lending program to students who need access to this technology
- > Collaborative work from ODEI, ODLI, and Moon Shot in developing & implementing faculty support for inclusive teaching practices
- > Development of a new faculty development opportunity for all first-year faculty to introduce best practices in inclusive pedagogy to support equitable outcomes (PETAL)
- > The Provost’s office recently funded 14 PEPI grants, and we look forward to seeing any and all Moon Shot Aligned work that emerges from these projects.

GOAL TEAM UPDATES

Our five goal teams worked their way through the five phases of work we laid out for them last summer. They have worked to develop a shared understanding of what it means to have an equity-minded practice and how we apply that practice to our work in higher education (phase 1), they have looked at disaggregated student success data to identify the places where we have the most profound institutional equity gaps and articulated 7 specific equity gaps around registration holds, retention and graduation rates, transfer student experiences, and developmental education for which we will focus.

Each team has been out in the campus community asking questions of you, to better understanding our institutional policies and practices. They have also been learning about best practices in closing equity gaps for students success. Our teams are now synthesizing all this information to make recommendations for changes to our institutional policies and practices to close equity gaps and better support success for all our WCU students. You can access specific summaries of goal team work on our webpage.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

- > SAVE THE DATE - **Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart** Keynote on **Sept 20**
- > Sign-up for your own **EAB account** to access their library of resources
- > Read **Equity Talk to Equity Walk** or **What Inclusive Instructors Do**

Questions? Comments? Contact us at moonshot@wcupa.edu