Seattle Central: Key Outcomes

We looked at three traditionally disadvantaged student groups among our domestic student population in broadly transfer or workforce intent or program, from their first quarter as a new student or transfer-in:

- Under-represented minorities, broadly, all groups other than “white”, European, Asian, and no answer, as reported at registration or application;
- Poor, students living at or below 150% of the poverty line for the year in which data was submitted, as reported on the FAFSA
- First-generation, as reported on the FAFSA

We then compared these individuals to other domestic students who had none of the above characteristics (whether or not they had filed a FAFSA). “None of the above” students are less likely to have filed a FAFSA or reported demographic data, which may suggest less motivation to transfer or complete.

Retention rates are for all and only students who:
- Were at the Seattle Central in fall;
- Were here for the first time as a new or transfer student;
- Met the criteria above (domestic, transfer or workforce, etc.)

Students from under-represented backgrounds continue to do better than students who do not report any of the disadvantage markers we tracked. However, the gap is narrowing. This study did not examine the differences between transfer and workforce retention patterns.

Completion rates are calculated as follows:
- From the student’s first quarter in the database, with or without credit (i.e. including “false starts”, records without credit);
- Any degree or certificate earned;
- In under 4 years including the first enrollment.

I.e. a student enrolling for the first time Fall 2010 must complete by Summer 2013-14 to be counted in the completion rate.

Because the poor and first-generation markers both come from the FAFSA, this plot may suggest looking more at the role of financial aid in completion.

Transfer rates for 12-13 may be heavily underestimated because National Student Clearinghouse data often experiences a lag. The transfer rate was calculated in the same way as the completion rate.

Transfers include all transfers to four-year universities reporting to the National Student Clearinghouse. Two-year baccalaureate institutions were not included in this study.

The most common transfer destinations over the entire period were:
- UW Seattle: 2,377
- Washington State University: 346
- Seattle University: 591
- Seattle Pacific University: 222
- Western Washington University: 376
- Central Washington University: 214