

# The First Year Matters

**Assessing Lane's Readiness to  
Provide an Excellent Learning  
Environment for First-Year Students**

**Foundations of Excellence®**

[www.fyfoundations.org](http://www.fyfoundations.org)



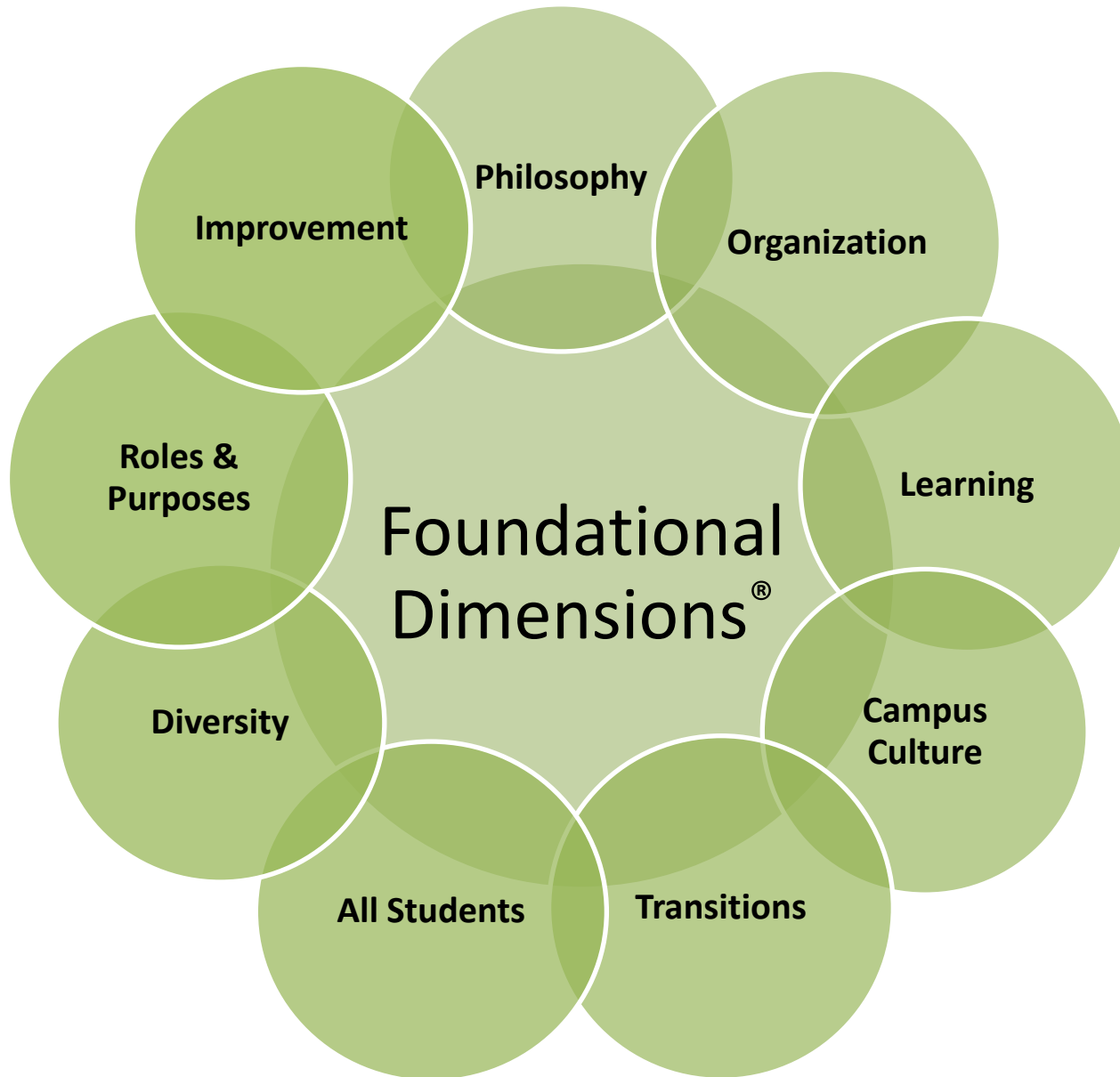
# Foundations of Excellence®

- Nine month, guided assessment and improvement process centered around the first year experience
- Focus on institutional policies, practices and programs
- Campus-wide task force uses local expertise and multiple forms of evidence to guide intellectually substantive and collegial discussions



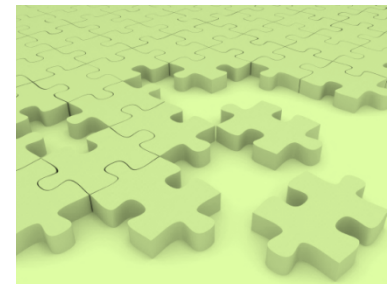
# Using Foundational Dimensions for Analysis and Planning

- Provides a model to evaluate and improve the first-year student experience
- Recognizes multiple roles and functions of the Community College
- Enables the College to confirm strengths and to recognize the need for improvement
- Provides general guidelines for an intentional design



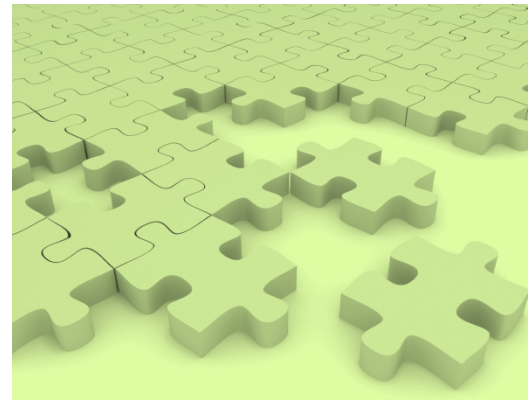
# Objectives

- **Fall 2011**
  - **Current Practices Inventory**
    - Used to develop descriptions of first year components (programs, services, policies)
  - **Faculty/Staff and Student Surveys**
    - To measure perceptions of institutional behavior linked to Foundational Dimensions
  - **Establish Dimension Assessment Teams**



# Objectives

- **Winter 2012**
  - **Dimension Assessment Work**
    - **Broad faculty and staff participation to assess levels of institutional achievement on specific performance indicators for each Dimension**



# Objectives

- **Spring 2012**
  - **Create Evidence-based Dimension Reports**
    - Used to foster campus-wide discussion
  - **Complete the Final Report and Develop Strategic Action Plan**
    - Recommend immediate and long-range priorities for change



# Philosophy

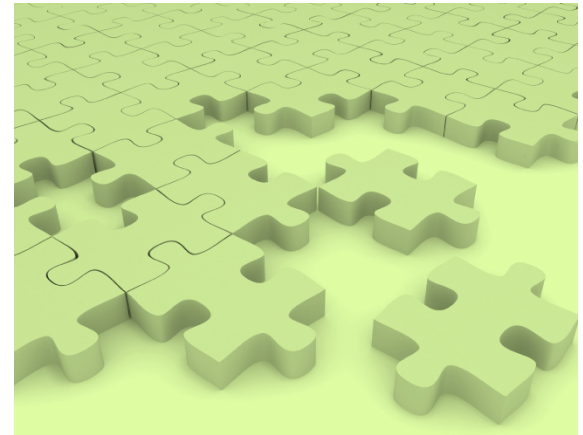
**Intentionally cultivate learning environments that emerge from a philosophy of two-year colleges as gateways to higher education**





# Organization

**Provide a comprehensive, coordinated, and flexible approach through effective organizational structures and policies**



# Campus Culture

**Create a culture of responsibility for first-year students realized through high quality instruction, services and support through substantial interaction both in and out of the classroom**



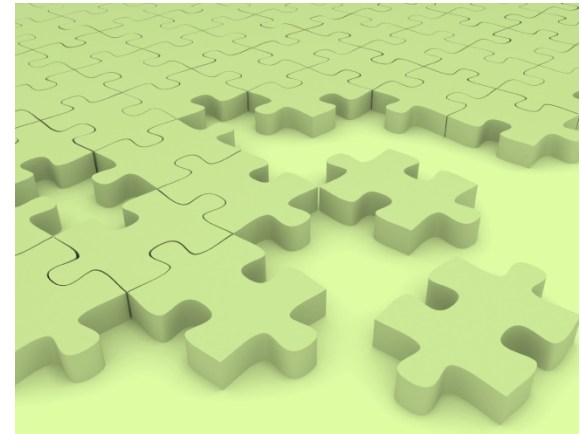
# Learning

**Deliver learning experiences that engage first-year students in developing knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors that promote critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and the lifelong pursuit of knowledge**



# Transitions

**Facilitate appropriate student transitions throughout the student experience by providing appropriate preparation and support for educational success**



# All Students

**Effectively serve all first-year students by anticipating, identifying, and addressing their varied needs based on abilities, backgrounds, interests and experiences**



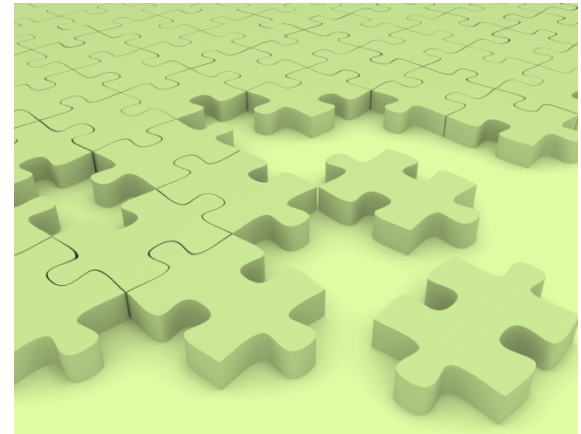
# Roles & Purposes

**Promote understanding of the various roles and purposes of higher education by exposing students to the value of a general education and focused study in an academic or career field**



# Diversity

**Ensure first-year students consistently explore and experience diverse ideas, worldviews, and cultures as a means of enhancing their learning and participation in pluralistic communities**



# Improvement

**Conduct assessment to guide**

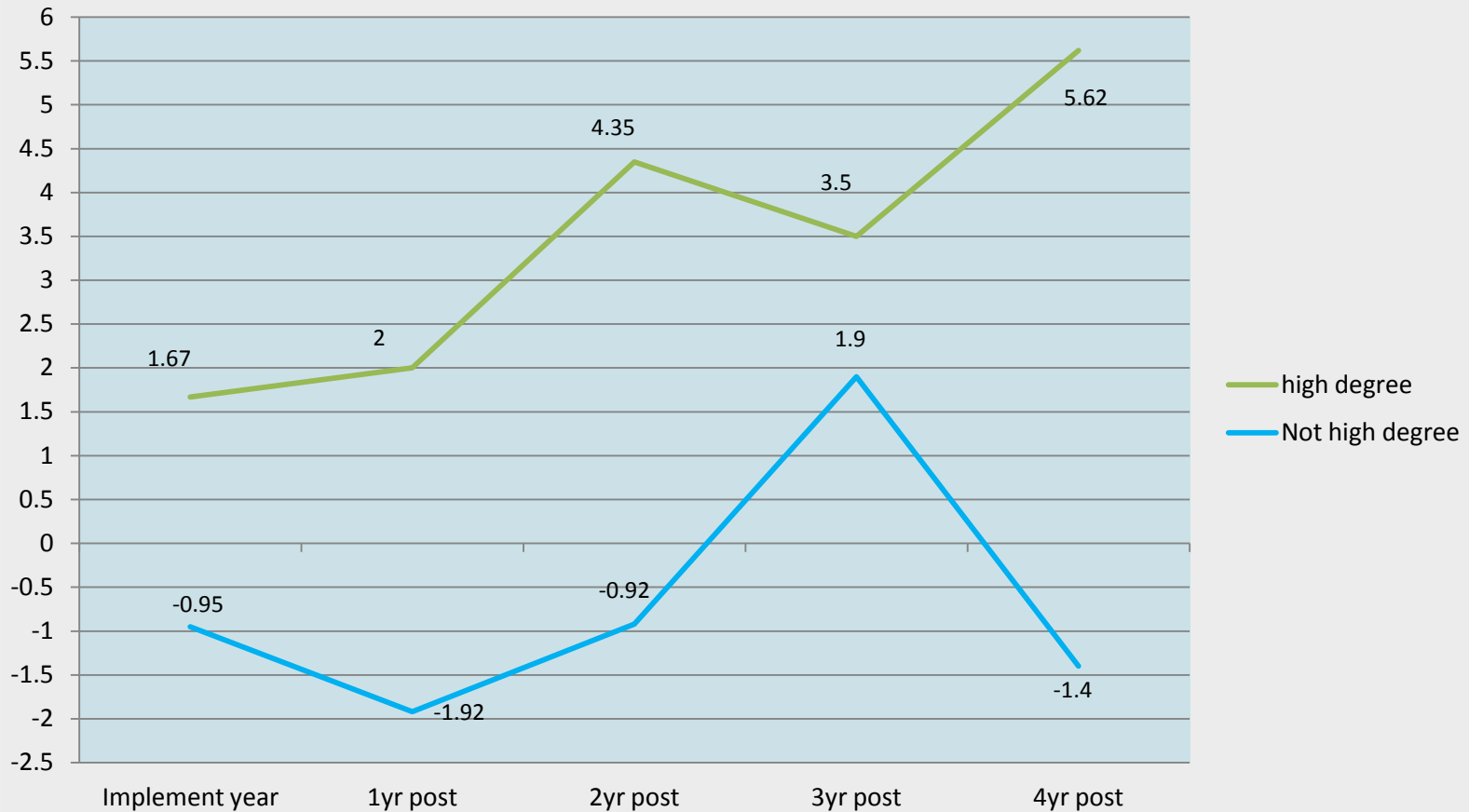
- **Learning**
- **Teaching**
- **Planning and resource allocation**
- **Improvement of programs and policies**





# FoE Actions and Retention Rates

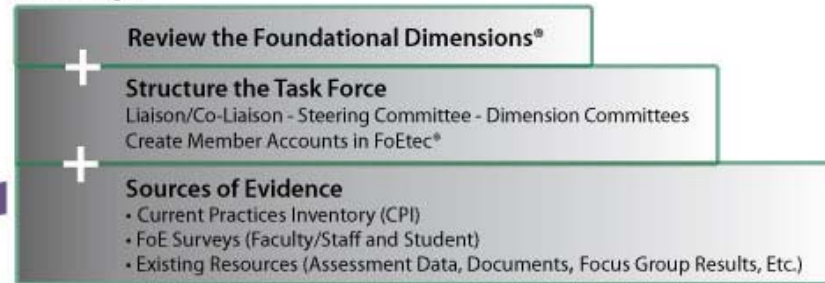
Change in first-to-second year retention rates post implementation of FoE action plan by level of implementation



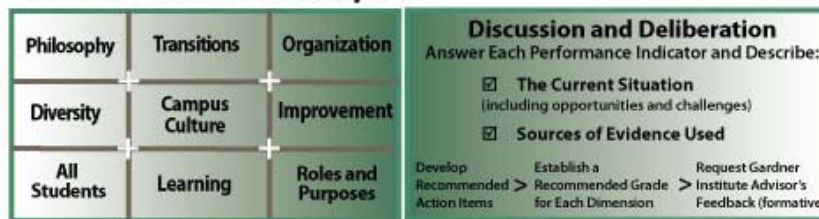
Note: The 5.62 point increase is an 8.2% increase in retention.

# Foundations of Excellence® (FoE) Self-Study Process: Two-Year Institutions

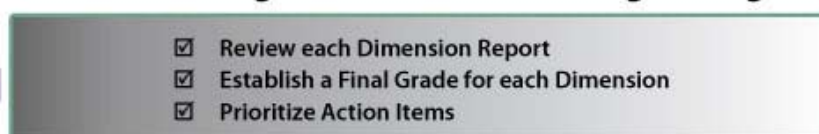
## First Steps



## Dimension Committee Reports



## Steering Committee Review - Pulling It All Together



## Comprehensive FoE Final Report and Implementation Plan

## Moving Forward



# Confluence

