Starfish and the 7 Signature Strategies discussion summary:

Re-Imagining the First Year of College is a partnership between Minnesota State Mankato and the American Association for State Colleges and Universities. The project goal is to dramatically improve the quality of learning and student experience in the first year, increase retention rate, and improve student success. Minnesota State Mankato was accepted into the program and started this work in February 2016 and we have developed seven signature strategies.

Starfish is a tool to help us achieve the project goals. We've branded Starfish as MavConnect. It is a role-relationship based tool and key components include shared notes, online appointment scheduling, and early alerts. This tool will also now deliver MavCares and Mid-Term Reports. Students, faculty, and staff have access. Students can connect to their "success network" using MavConnect.

Most of the discussion around the table was about MavConnect (Starfish). Key points from the discussion included:

How are we training faculty, staff, and students?

Roll-out was a little later than planned. We will be rolling out in sections as needed and we will try to get to college or department meetings. We will also look for CETL opportunities, attend the faculty/staff resource fair on Sept. 6, and Professional Development Day.

Ideas for rolling it out to students include getting into FYEX 100 and KSP 106 courses. Students will access MTR through MavConnect and another idea was to drive students there for their access code at registration time.

Confidentiality

Questions about confidentiality came up several time and it is something the MavConnect (Starfish) implementation team continues to work on and tweak. Remember that it is role-relationship based and you will only have access if you are connected to that student as an instructor, academic advisor, or by specific cohort (Learning Communities, for example).

The implementation team has wrestled with these questions through the implementation. We don't want students to be discriminated against based on something shared in a note (example of plagiarism) but the point of Starfish is to connect all of these resources to help a student.

This is NOT a finished product! We will start rolling out and training now but will continue to add and tweak.

Where is the data coming from?

Most of the data is coming from ISRS but alerts and notes will be added by instructors and academic advisors.

Comments from the table discussions:

How are staff and new faculty being trained?

Have you included Residential Life?

Are parents connected in any way to this? What about FERPA issues?

Is there a traffic cop?

How are you training and getting faculty involved?

College meetings next week – ask Deans for just 5 minutes.

Finding faculty champions – 1 or 2 from each of the colleges.

Recognizing students for doing well.

Hand-off to the CDC.

Hand-off to mentor program.

Could a student provide input or add to their profile? There is a faculty/advisor bio – is there for students?

Link to Facebook or LinkedIn?

How does this work with the Integrated Advising Model and O3?

When will it be ready to roll out?

Confidentiality? If a students want to add LGBT and Women's Center, can that be confidential?

Can students self-identify, as Native American, for example? This would be helpful because they don't all tell us at the time of Admission.

Implementation idea – KSP for International students.

Implementation idea – using access code as a carrot.

"New in Starfish This Week" – share best practices and examples of how you can solve problems/challenges you already have.

Does it have the ability to email your entire advising list? (Yes, and you can filter the list even further.)