

Data-Driven Student Risk Assessment Tools Connect Struggling Students with Educators



CHALLENGE >>

What happens when a global pandemic and evolving educational models disconnect students and educators? It could easily spell disaster for both students and the college they attend. Or it could be the catalyst to drive change and innovation.

In 2020 and continuing into 2021, colleges and universities throughout the world were hit with inarguably the most challenging and transformative period in recent memory. As students entered quarantine, educators were forced to transition classes to online and/or radically adjust their teaching approaches to adhere to the changing mandates in place due to COVID-19. Students took classes from their dorm rooms or left campus altogether and studied remotely. And they lost the opportunity to easily connect with educators, fellow students, and their coursework, putting many students at risk for failure or leaving school altogether.

Cowley College, a community college based in Arkansas City, Kansas, recognized that many of its students were struggling. They also identified gaps in the school's data infrastructure -- the right information was being collected, but it was disconnected and difficult to piece together to make informed, timely decisions. This affected Cowley College's ability to identify and reach out to at-risk students and created frustration among the faculty and administrative staff.

INDUSTRY >>

Higher Education

CLIENT >>

Cowley College

CHALLENGE >>

Disparate data collection methods and the challenges of COVID-19 resulted in the need to mine data to improve student outreach and budgeting efforts

SOLUTION >>

Create an integrated data-driven dashboard

RESULTS >>

Student Risk Assessment tool identifies struggling students and streamlines outreach efforts, and increases retention



CHALLENGE >>

Cowley College recognized that it needed to:

- Improve and create consistency in data collection and reporting approaches
- Embrace technology-based tools for employees and support collaboration
- Develop a student risk assessment tool to identify struggling students and reach out with mitigation efforts

SOLUTION >>

Cowley College is not alone in its challenge to support students having a difficult experience in a rapidly changing COVID present. Due to the global pandemic, colleges and universities, as well as elementary and secondary schools, have wrestled with identifying and assisting an unprecedented number of at-risk students. But Cowley College decided to take an aggressive and innovative approach. They partnered with Datatelligent, LLC to build and support a data-driven student retention dashboard, which includes a risk assessment tool, and a budget forecasting dashboard to help the school pivot in uncertain times.

Using the student risk assessment and budget forecasting solutions, educators and administrators will be able to:

- Use consistent metrics to track, identify and reach out to students
- Provide advisors a comprehensive understanding of students' performance to proactively support those students in need of help
- Empower Cowley College's staff to tap into timely information for budget forecasting and allow them to develop "what if" scenarios related to recruitment, retention, and other funding sources

This type of collaboration with Datatelligent gives us an invaluable opportunity to benefit from their expertise in data visualization design.

RESULTS >>

Using Datatelligent's Data Analytics as a Service (DAaaS) solution, Datatelligent staff worked collaboratively with Cowley College to automate data collection and integration to create a highly visualized dashboard. Staff now have access to information that previously had been disconnected or inconsistent. Most importantly, they can quickly respond and support students who may be having difficulty with remote or in-person instruction.

SOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS:

- Streamlined consistent data collection approach and reporting structure
- Created a Student Risk Assessment tool to identify at-risk students and drive immediate mediation efforts
- Improved accuracy and timeliness in data reporting
- Lifted the strain on in-house resources by acting as a partner and trusted collaborator
- Enabled school to focus on more effective retention efforts and improved budget forecasting



Datatelligent

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