

Report to President's Cabinet
STLR Progress Report, Q3 Calendar 2017
October 1, 2017
Jeff King, STLR Grant P.I.

STLR Marketing:

- Internal: STLR 4-pager distributed at 2017 Fall Forum to set the stage for an important run the last two years of the grant: because faculty/staff stipends for STLR training will cease in two years, and student TL project funding will drop precipitously (even if \$1M is secured for the TL Endowment), we must encourage all faculty/staff who have not been STLR trained to do so soon (all the student TL project funds will be spent in the next two years).
- External: Quality Assurance Commons/Lumina invitation to UCO/STLR and UCO/Forensic Science has again positioned UCO for Lumina-related promotion. In addition, QACommons is partnering on TL Conference proposal about STLR as an exemplar for Essential Employability Qualities Certification (see below regarding the EEQ Cert project). UCO is one of two locations being considered for the January 2018 convening of all 14 institutions + QACommons + NCHEMS + Lumina Foundation.

Lumina Foundation-Funded, Quality Assurance Commons-Led Essential Employability Qualities Certification Project (EEQ Cert)

Initial surveys were completed and both UCO representatives attended the first convening of the project in Atlanta Sept. 14-15. UCO is the only institution represented among the 14 invited that is represented by a program (Forensic Science, Mark McCoy) and at the all-institutional level (STLR, Jeff King): <https://theqacommons.org/the-eeq-pilot/>.

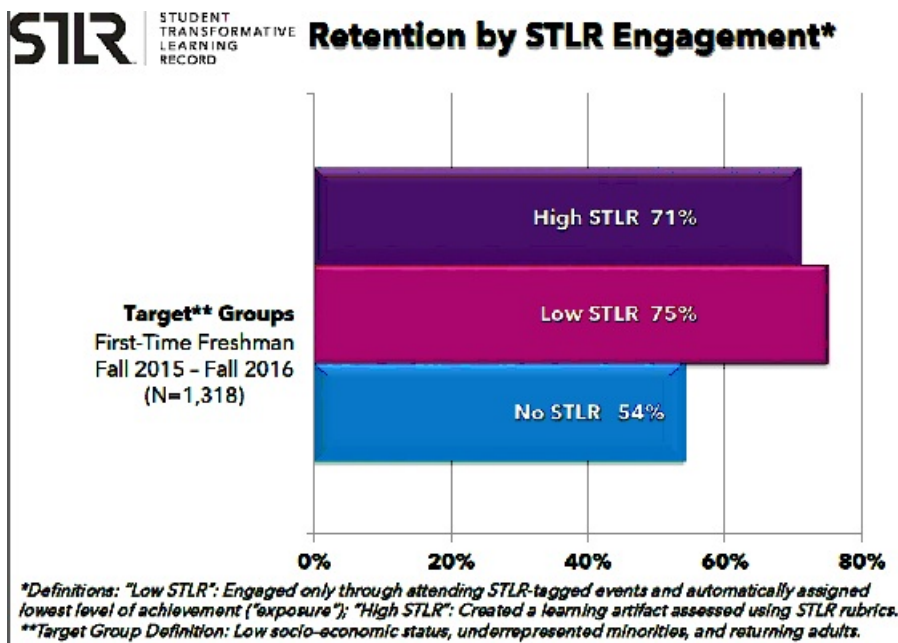
The goals for EEQ Cert include a “program-level certification process to assure that graduates are well-prepared for the 21st-century workforce”: <https://www.luminafoundation.org/news-and-views/qa-commons>.

Tarleton State University STLR Implementation Team Visit

- TSU's 10-person STLR Implementation Team visited UCO Sept. 18-19. This followed a 6-person team visit Fall 2016. TSU will launch

STLR across campus in both the curriculum and the co-curriculum in Fall 2018, and this visit was to enable 1-on-1 conversations between TSU STLR personnel and UCOers in similar roles.

- UCO collaborated with TSU to submit an application for a Gates Foundation/Great Lakes Foundation/Kresge Foundation-funded grant, Strong Start to Finish (SStF). Three institutions/systems will be awarded up to \$2.6M across three years for proof-of-concept projects that will improve gateway course pass rates, retention, and earlier declaration of chosen major among low-income, first-generation, and adult students. The STLR grant already targets low-income & 1st-gen; we ran the numbers for STLR impact on returning adults and



Returning adults' retention as impacted by STLR engagement.

found they are just as impressive as the other two subpopulations' retention improvement. Though only institutions in identified states can receive the funding, partnerships are encouraged as long as

the project director is at an institution in an eligible state and the funds flow to that institution. Consequently, the TSU-UCO partnership is a win-win for both institutions: TSU needs us to present proof that the intervention proposed works, and UCO will receive a modest amount of funding via consultation work on the project. The ultimate win for both institutions is a high-profile STLR project on the national stage.

IMS Global and STLR

IMS Global is a key player nationally and internationally regarding

interoperability and articulation for portable badges and micro-credentials: <https://www.imsglobal.org/>. STLR came to their attention via an Open Badge Alliance webinar (below) focused on a description of STLR, its implementation and ongoing results. Impressed at STLR's comprehensiveness and evidence-based, authentic assessment focused processes, IMS Global is eager to highlight UCO and STLR in service to advancing technology-driven microcredentialing that is backed by evidence and articulated easily among institutions as well as outside academe among employers and others.

A particularly exciting project with IMS Global is the plenary panel presentation and concurrent session presentation at their second annual summit in February at Arizona State University. UCO's partnership around STLR with AT&T affords the opportunity for AT&T to appear as a panelist with UCO to provide the assemblage the employer's perspective. We are working on this potential now.

Some STLR Presentations During Q3 2017:

- National Society for Experiential Education Conference; "Assessing Student Growth During Service Learning Study Abroad Experiences Using a Transformative Learning Framework" Jarrett Jobe & Mark Walvoord.
- Open Badge Alliance Webinar; "STLR: Badging & ePortfolio to Credential Beyond-Disciplinary Skills"; Jeff King.
- Defense Language Institute; keynote session at Advanced Command Language Program Manager Workshop and plenary panel at DLI Teaching & Learning Conference; Jeff King.
- International Association of University Presidents; "Student Transformative Learning Record: Better Teaching & Learning in the 21st Century"; Don Betz.

STLR Institute as a TL Conference Pre-Conference Session

- Half-day pre-conference workshop on the UCO campus (or potentially at the Boathouse).
- Targeted to teams of two or more from institutions interested in adopting/adapting STLR or in early stages of doing so.
- In addition to STLR staff facilitating the workshop, two members of the Western Carolina University STLR adaptation (named,

“DegreePlus”) will help facilitate to provide the institutional perspective from a university that has already adapted STLR. (We are in communication with Massey University in New Zealand about potentially also sending a representative to help facilitate — Massey has a broad STLR implementation in place now.)

- There will then be a conference follow-up thread for these institutional teams, and a concluding conference session in which the teams share with each other (and any conference-goers wishing to attend the session) their preliminary messaging developed about adopting/adapting STLR on their home campuses.

Civitas Learning’s Illume Data Analytics Regarding STLR

- The Civitas Impact Analysis of STLR yielded retention improvement results among a broad swath of students (the STLR grant target subpopulations plus non-target population, Fall 2015 incoming first-time students). The results were compelling to the extent that Civitas is featuring STLR at the national Educause Conference in November in Philadelphia and in placement of a STLR article in *Educause Review*. These are the results shared in the Fall Forum 4-pager.
- Illume analytics have also turned up that UCO does an exemplary job with part-time student retention — there is only a 4.4% gap between the rate at which full-time and part-time students are retained. Because these results are much better than the average in higher education, Civitas is partnering with UCO to investigate potential causes.
- The value-add of Civitas: The promotion of STLR and STLR results and the “heads-up: here’s something we found that might be useful” illustrated above regarding part-time student retention align with an observation made by Dr. Hynes at the recent PAC meeting: Civitas’ service to institutions, UCO included, has been evolving from mere provision of a tool to a partnered consultancy providing advice about interpretation of results, templated suggestions for outreach based on analytics and modeling, and “how to” assistance.