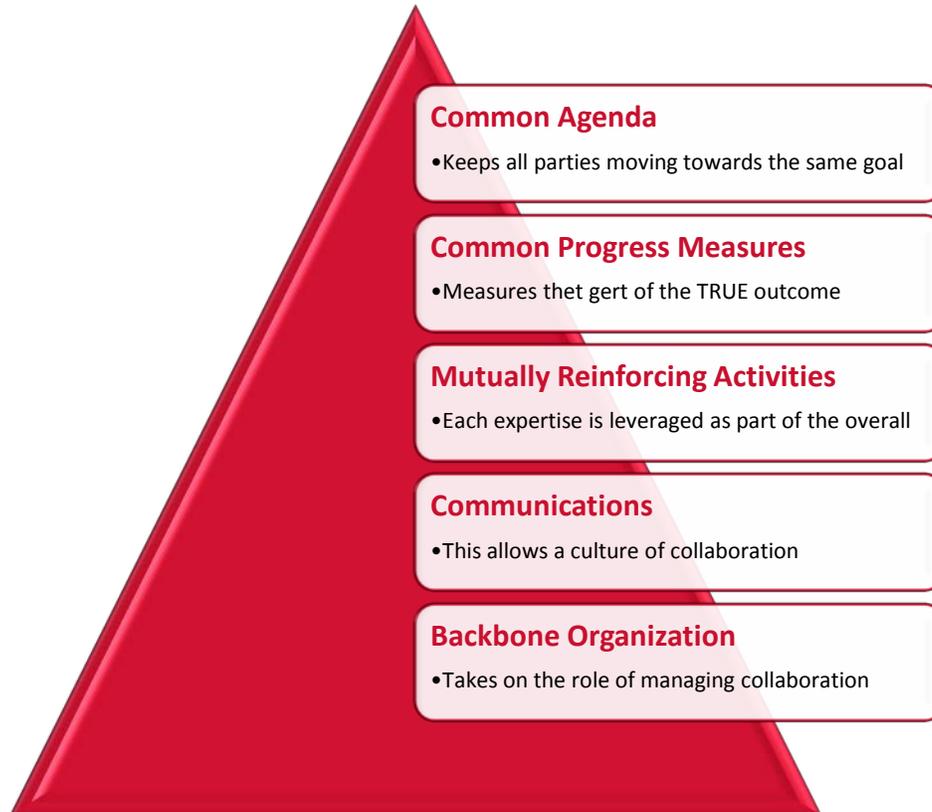


## ADVANCING INSTITUTIONAL EFFICACY TO ENSURE RETENTION AND GRADUATION OF LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

7<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Higher Education Symposium

### Model of Collective Impact



### UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS LOW-INCOME STUDENT NEEDS:

- **Lumina Foundation's Beyond Financial Aid:** A national initiative that focuses on increasing the efficacy of institutions of higher education in the quest to retain and graduate low-income students. The initiative has been launched at a select number of universities with the principle support from the Lumina Foundation. Through this effort, a University-wide committee is working to identify barriers to achievement and possible areas for additional student support for low-income students.
- **Education Trust's Optimizing Academic Success and Institutional Strategy (OASIS):** Aims to create a network between eleven regional, comprehensive institutions that serve large populations of underrepresented minorities to expand on the use of evidence-based practices at their campuses and to share their data and insights with each other in order to narrow the college completion gap between white and underrepresented minority students. Senior

university leaders collaborate to analyze data and frequently communicate with each other in effort to develop best practices in student success.

- **Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU)'s Completion Grant:** The APLU and the USU recently awarded the University of Houston \$50,000 to launch a pilot program to prevent low-income college students nearing graduation from dropping out. The grants are for two years and are funded by Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation and Lumina Foundation. Funds from the programs are being used to strengthen the infrastructures in place to identify students close to graduation who are at risk of dropping out due to inability to pay and matching them with endowment funds in the form of Completion Grants. The grants are part of a broader success initiative known as Collaborating for Change, which matches institutions with peer mentors for assistance, professional development, and form learning communities to work through challenges, opportunities, and other unexpected developments.
- **Houston GPS:** An integrated system of cohesive, interdependent strategies that are designed to increase and accelerate student completion and smooth two-year to four-year college transfer while improving educational quality for Houston area students. This is achieved through collaborative efforts to provide a timely, structured, and seamless pathway for students transferring from Gulf Coast-Houston area community colleges to the University of Houston System universities

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