

# Undergraduate Success Initiatives at UIC and in Chicago: Helping Chicago's Students Succeed

## **Bette L. Bottoms**

Dean of the Honors College and Professor of Psychology  
Executive Director,  
Chicago Collaborative for Undergraduate Success

## **Lon Kaufman**

Assistant Vice President for Health Affairs  
Professor of Biological Sciences

# Who are UIC Students?

Among 16,660 undergraduates,  
3,104 started in Fall 2013:

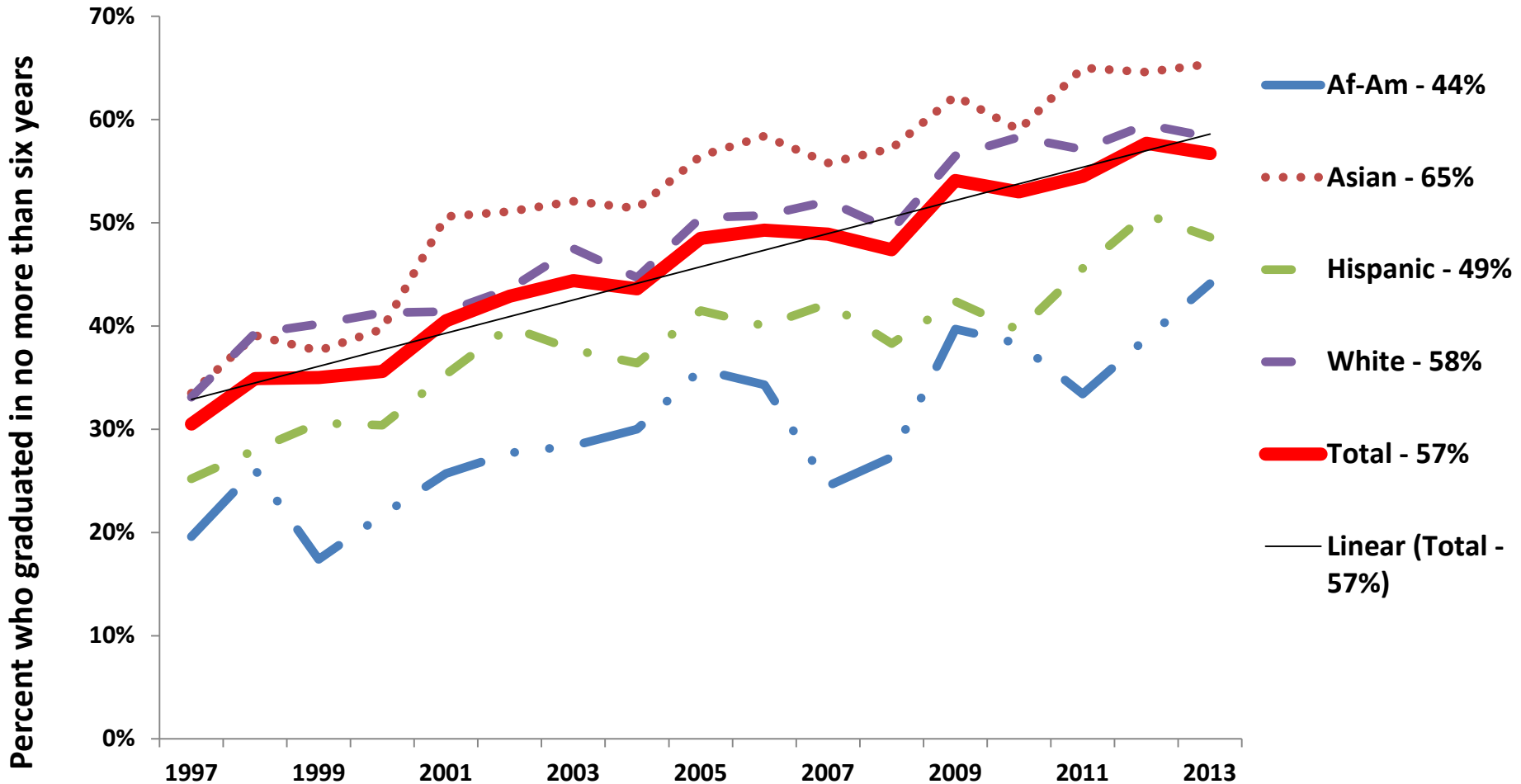
- 56% are Pell eligible (e.g., family of 4 making around \$40K)
- 97% are from Illinois
- 29% are from Chicago Public Schools
- 40% live on campus
- 44% have a parent with a 4-year college degree
- 42% work
- 60% grew up in a non-English household
- No racial majority: 9% African American, 28% Hispanic, 31% White, 26% Asian, 6% other.

---

# How do UIC students perform?

# UIC Six-Year Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity

## Current 2014 rate = 60%



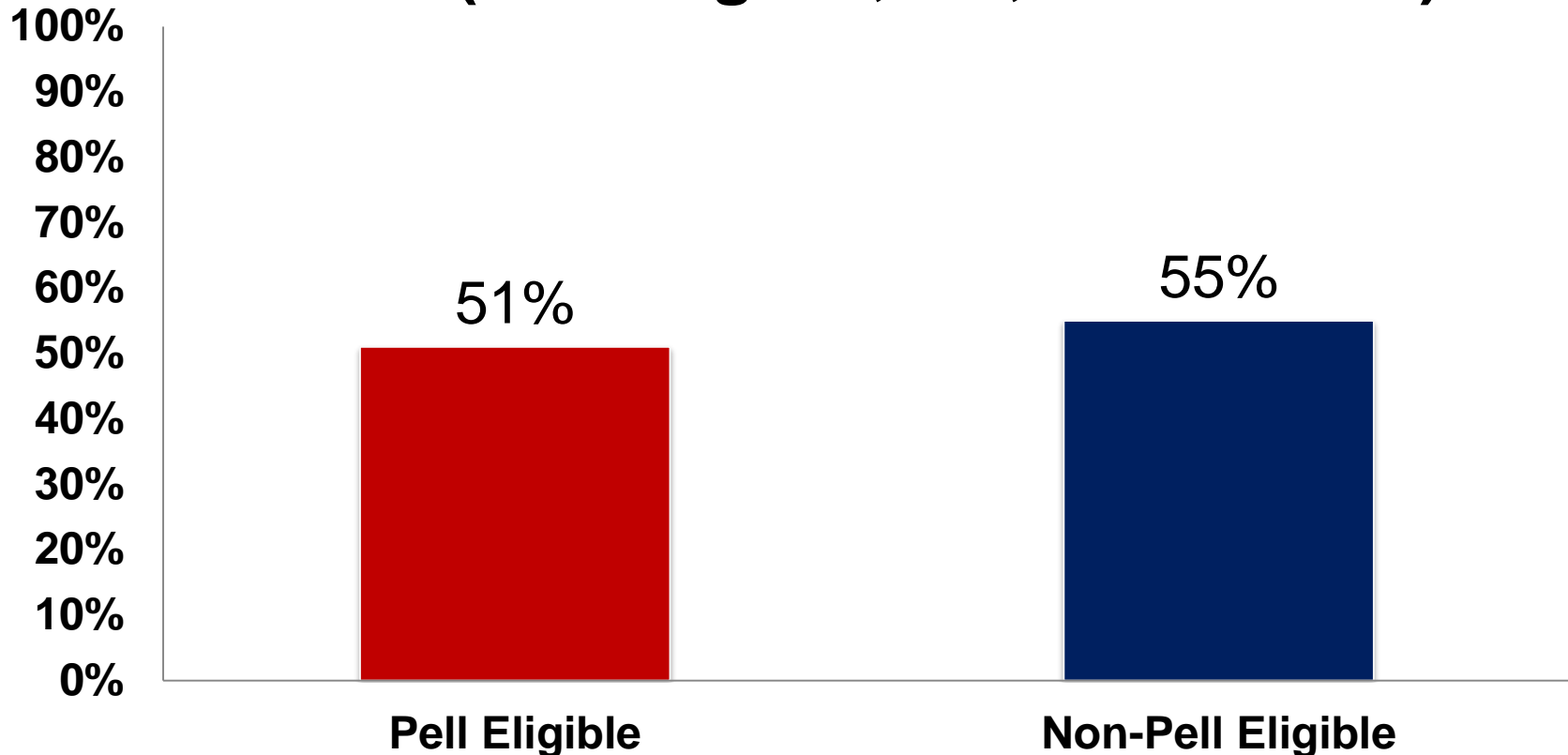
Graduation rates for students who started 6 years prior to date indicated. There has been little change in entering demographics or ACT scores during this time.

---

# What is UIC doing to address student success?

# Leveling the Playing Field with Financial Aid

## Six-Year Graduation Rates by Pell Status (entering '04, '05, '06 cohorts)



# A Campus “Best Practice” Model

## The UIC Honors College

Home to a collection of engaging,  
“high-impact practices” with proven  
success...

# UIC Honors College

88%

*Latest 6-Year Graduation Rate*

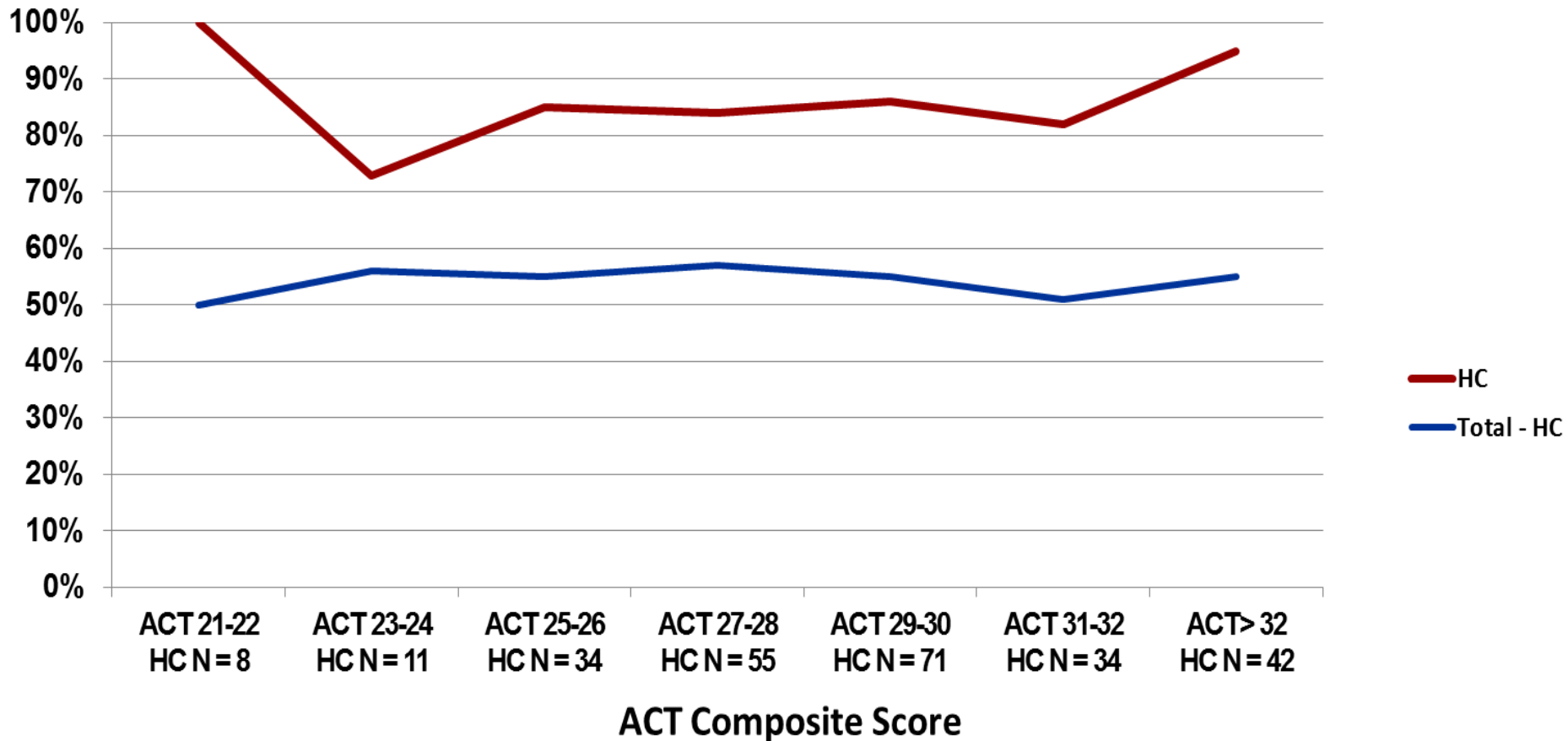


# Why Are Honors College Students More Successful?

*It's not what you think!*

Our multivariate analyses show that Honors College membership has an effect above and beyond entering ACT, HS grades, AP credits, family finances, etc.

## Five-Year Graduation Rate as a Function of ACT: UIC Honors vs. Non-Honors Students



Data for line colleges excludes Honors College students.

# Why Are Honors College Students More Successful?

*It's not what **they** come to us with,  
it's what **we** do with them  
once they get to us.*

The Question, then, is:

*How Can You Give an Honors  
Experience to All Students?*

# UIC Student Success Planning Initiative: Began Fall 2011

- Provost Lon Kaufman and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Barbara Henley convened Undergraduate Policy Council of Deans. Charged by Chancellor with:
  - 85% First-to-second-year Retention Rate
  - 65% Six-year Graduation Rate
  - Racial/Ethnic Parity

# UIC Student Success Plan: Process, Structure, Product

- Initial draft plan written in the Office of the VPUA.
- Action plan then created by 8 task forces of 200+ faculty, students, & staff convened by VPUA & Dean of Students:
  1. Data Analysis & Assessment
  2. Targeted First-Year Curriculum
  3. Support for Student Learning
  4. Faculty Engagement
  5. Advising
  6. Financing College
  7. Campus Life
  8. Pre-Matriculation
- Result: ***“A Strategic Plan for Increasing Undergraduate Success”***: 1300 pages, 125 recommendations (March 2014)
- Available at: <http://studentsuccess.uic.edu/>

# How Will UIC Implement 125 Recommendations?

- ...with the help of an APLU/Gates **“Transformation Planning Grant”** (\$225K: *Bottoms, Farruggia, & Leighton*), which will help UIC prioritize, plan, implement, and assess the 125 recommended actions.

# RESEARCH: The right multivariate data analyses should drive everything

With a \$400K foundation grant to Bottoms & Kaufman, we started a program of research ...

- Building a multivariate model identifying factors predicting student success
- Non-cognitive survey (all UIC freshmen)
- Exit survey (top reasons: finances, commute, family/school balance, family emergency, classes not freshman-friendly)



But our smart funders wanted us  
to do something even bigger...

# Community Context:

---

Bringing Higher Education to the Table:

*The Chicago Collaborative for  
Undergraduate Success*

# Chicago Collaborative for Undergraduate Success

**Mission:** To help create a Chicago where all young people live up to their educational potential, by raising college graduation rates

**Members:** Work collaboratively collecting and using data to understand how to improve undergraduate success

# Chicago Collaborative for Undergraduate Success

## Representing 40 Chicago Colleges & Universities:

- 23 Associated Colleges of Illinois
- 7 City Colleges of Chicago
- Columbia College
- DePaul University
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Loyola University
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Northern Illinois University
- Northwestern University
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- Roosevelt University

**...aided by many community partners, funders**

# Chicago Collaborative for Undergraduate Success:

## *Serving Chicago Public School (CPS) Youth*

**Only 17% of CPS 9<sup>th</sup> graders graduate with a 2- or 4-year degree.**

- In 2012: 22,000 CPS students graduated H.S.,
- ... of whom 56% enrolled in college,
- ... of whom 52% enrolled in Collaborative institutions,
- ...of whom only 42% graduated.

# Chicago Collaborative for Undergraduate Success:

## *Sample Initiatives*

1. Sharing “Promising Practices” with each other
2. City Colleges Pathways project
3. Sharing with the strong partner of CPS: e.g., White Paper -- what we think CPS should do to prepare students
4. Data Subgroup -- sharing data and designing analytic strategies
5. CPS High School “Feedback Reports”: Providing real data about how their students do in collaborative institutions (grades, % needing remediation, etc.)

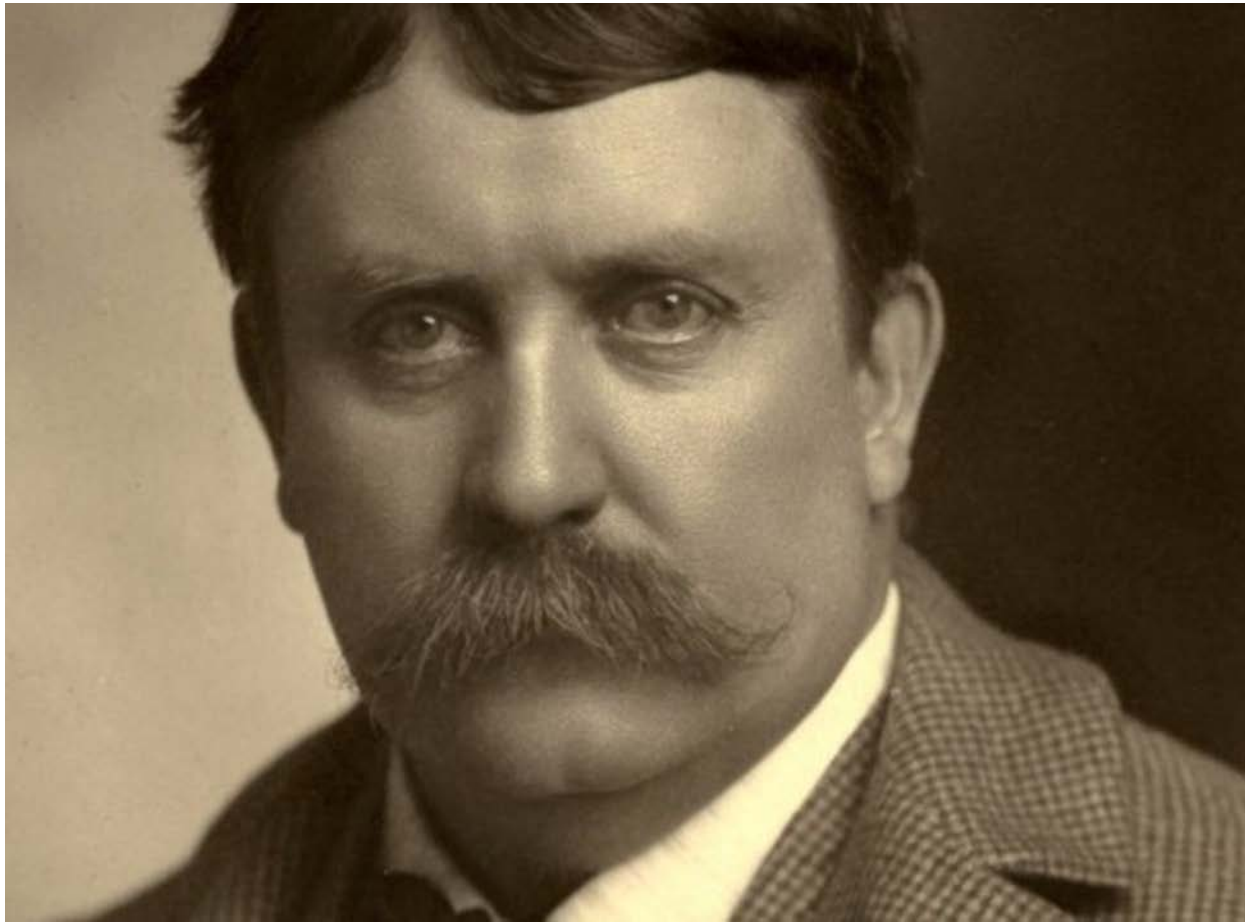
# Chicago Collaborative for Undergraduate Success

6. Leading the “College Completion Change Network” of THRIVE CHICAGO. Developing 3 programs for the city:
  - Accommodating Transition Coaching (from Non-Profits) on College Campuses
  - H.S. Senior Seminar Curriculum
  - H.S. College Advisor Credentialing

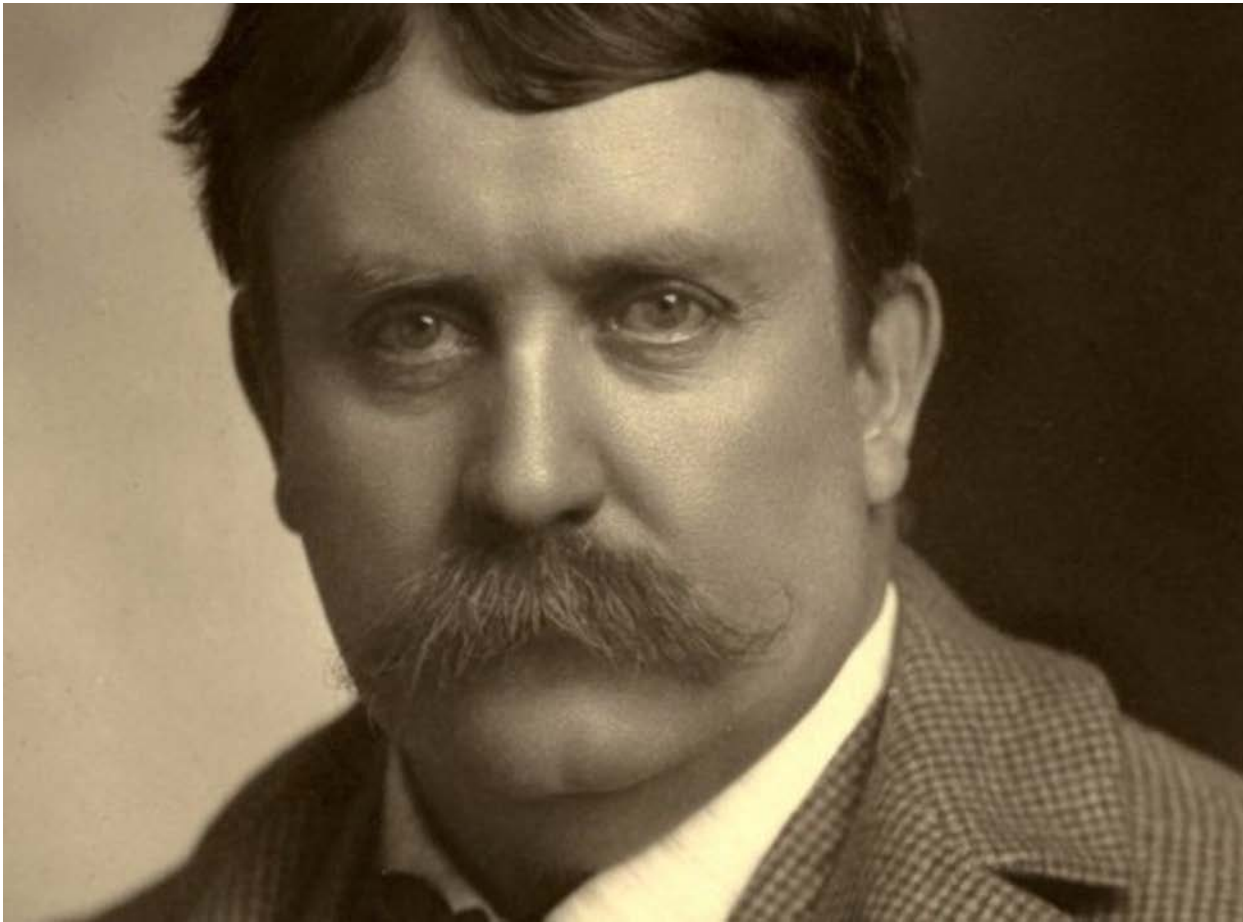
# Chicago Collaborative for Undergraduate Success

Increasing student success:  
*It's not just about your campus;  
it's about your **entire community.***





*"Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood."*



***“Make no little plans. They have no magic to ~~stir men's blood~~ graduate more students from college!”***

# Thank you!

