

Dr. Bridget Driscoll

Thank you for the invitation and opportunity to share. My name is Bridget Driscoll and it has been my honor to serve the CSU for the past 20 years. I am a first generation college graduate who began at the California Community College and transferred to the California State University system. I earned my doctoral degree while balancing full time work, full time school and FULL time family like many of the students I support today. I directly benefited from faculty mentorship and undergraduate research that paved the path to where I am today at California State University Dominguez Hills as the Associate Vice President of Retention, University Advising and Learning.

Understanding and embracing who our students are while making data informed decisions is key to advancing the outcomes of higher education in California. This means that staff needs access to accurate, timely and consistent student information from the institute the student has transferred in from. This increases accuracy and allows a successful seamless student transition from high school through degree completion.

In order to achieve this, we must move beyond working in silos. We need to bridge the divide. Moving forward as educators, respecting and honoring the expertise of our fellow colleagues. These actions have the potential to yield greater outcomes when we are focused on the same goal, student success. Evolving current platforms and developing an intersegmental transcript will create a transparent system that allows students to move seamlessly through California's higher education system, optimizing progress to degree completion and eliminating the achievement gap.

Cross-divisional collaborations are powerful. At CSUDH we experienced a dramatic 7% increase in graduation rates, by developing dynamic teams intentionally designed to analyze and eliminate roadblocks to graduation through pioneering changes in process, procedures and policy. These teams invited action-oriented partners from Administration and Finance, Student Affairs and Academic Affairs to be a part of the solution.

If we empower our staff with accurate, consistent, and timely information- they will be able to focus on the developmental opportunities for our students. In turn, our students will become the next generation of innovative leaders.