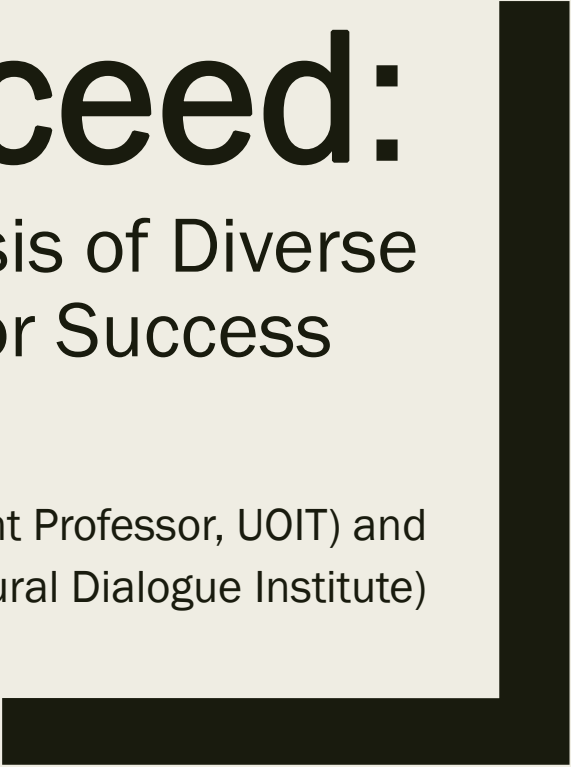




Daring to Succeed:

Developing a Cross-Canada Analysis of Diverse Students and their Strategies for Success

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The Project

- **Pilot project (2014):** Participation and Persistence: An Analysis of Immigrant Visible-Minority Students at UOIT (funded by SSHRC Small Research Grant)
- Visible minority immigrant & non-visible minority immigrant students at UOIT
- Surveys:
 - 1st (n=13) and 4th (n=11) year students
 - 7 male, 17 female
 - Age: 17 (n=1), 18 (n=10), 21 (n=8), 25 (n=1)
 - 15 Canadian by birth; 4 Canadian by naturalization; 5 permanent residents
- Interviews:
 - 8 female (no invited males appeared for their interview times)
 - 4 in 1st year + 4 in 4th year
 - Split evenly between self-identified visible/non-visible minority
- **Current Project:** Diversities of Resilience: Understanding the Strategies for Success used by Underrepresented Students in Canadian Universities (funded by SSHRC Partnership Development Grant)
- Three university partners:
 - *Mount Saint Vincent University (Nova Scotia)*
 - *University of Winnipeg (Manitoba)*
 - *University of Ontario Institute of Technology (Ontario)*
- Two community partners:
 - *Intercultural Dialogue Institute Toronto (Ontario)*
 - *Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute (DBDLI) (Nova Scotia)*
- Surveys and interviews

Why do the project? The “Academic” Perspective

- Why study “successful” students?
- Previous research focused on:
 - *“at-risk”/“vulnerable” students*
 - *Barriers to access*
 - *Family background*
 - *First generation students*
 - *First year students*
 - *University retention programs*
- Universities have been successful at:
 - *Improving access*
 - *Improving 1st year persistence*
 - *Improving First Gen persistence*
- Research needed to:
 - *Improve persistence to 4th year and graduation*
 - *Understand student views on success strategies*
 - *Better understand what we mean by “non-traditional” students and what they need to persist*
- Rates of persistence to 4th year
 - *Laurentian University’s year 1 to 2 retention rate was 82.7%, but its graduation rate was 70.9%.*
 - *UOIT graduation rate 68.7%*
 - *Ryerson graduation rate 73.3%*

Why do the project? The Community Perspective

- Intercultural Dialogue Institute
 - *Dialogue & community building*
- Diversity & inclusion
- Organizing programs to disseminate information to students, administrators and policy makers



Current Project: Surveys & Interviews

- Full Sample (some questions may have been skipped): 690
 - *MSVU: 89*
 - *UOIT: 269*
 - *UWinnipeg: 332*
- Recorded Responses (Including those who got filtered out by the first 5 questions): 1,555
- Incentives for survey: 3 x \$50 gift cards and 1 grand prize of an iPad (value \$600)
 - *Winners could select from a list of retailers*
 - *eGift cards*
- Interviews: aiming for 10 at each site – about 27 completed
- Incentive for interviews: \$20 cash

Looking ahead ...

- “Toolkit” for student success
 - *Research on existing tools underway*
- How can students (and their parents) use this research?
- How can universities use our findings?
- Future partnerships
 - *Only in Canada? Expand to other provinces?*
 - *International? What can we learn from other systems/cultures?*
 - *Test the toolkit? Collect more data on experiences?*

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