The Akron Experience

- Personal and professional
- Degree completion

President = interact with = ask students

Trustee Bowdler & I interacted with many student groups ~200 students

Helped inform strategies articulated in the Future State of Academic Affairs

Strategies to address our challenges = opportunities

- Increase the value of education to our students
  - Pathways to student academic success strategy
  - 60% graduation rate

- Investing in faculty and restrain costs to students
  - Every year we hire faculty with experience in on-line and alternative educational approaches, high research productivity with focus on increasing diversity of faculty
  - Significant investment in scholarships – BOT added dollars to scholarship fund several years ago

- Streamline pathways to degree completion
  - Revised academic program guides (roadmap to completion)
  - Integrating with DARS-allow a complete program to be developed so we know when we need to offer all of the needed courses

- Educational process more responsive to students
  - General education redesign-universal general education
  - Reducing credits to graduation to 120 credits
Better preparing our graduates for career success

- 80% job or professional program placement within six-months of graduation
- $1M grant to increase our internship/coop sites by ~250
- Expand from hiring engineers to marketing, finance, communications, philosophy and other majors

In previous years enrollment was mostly assured because of the large numbers of graduates from high schools

NOW:

We must assure our market share, increase our market share of high school graduates

AND

Increase our market share of “new traditional” students; online learning; evening/weekend; credential prior learning regardless of where that learning occurred

The campus is realizing there is Universal Accountability for Student Attraction, Matriculation, Retention, Persistence, Completion, Placement, and post-graduation Alumni success

Making these adjustments to our academic programs because:

Student Success is our Success AND

When our students are successful we are successful!