University Success
at PSU

Helping students become independent and active learners

PSU CS Capstone Project Proposal
4/16/2012
Who are we?

- **Courtney Sandler** – Academic Success and Retention Coordinator

- **Ross Lamberth** – Senior IT/IS Manager for the Auxiliary Services Department
What is University Success?

- We are an in-hall academic support center
- We specialize in helping students successfully transition into academic life
- We help students become independent and active learners
What does University Success Offer?

- Study lounge and computer work station
- Group study and Presentation Class Room
- Workshop Series
- Drop-In Tutoring
- Academic & Career Advising
- Drop-In Counseling: “Let’s Talk”
- Academic Coaching
- Academic Connect
- Academic Incentives
- Academic Achiever’s Award Recognition
What is our need?

- Create one location for gathering and reporting on information about students using University Success.
- Identify what resources are most useful in helping students succeed so we can tailor our services and offerings to best meet student needs.
- Learn to identify at-risk students early so we can better help those students while we still can.
- Show that using University Success helps students achieve better grades and outcomes over time.
Project in a Nutshell

Create a working database to gain perspective on who is visiting University Success, what resources they are using, and how this is affecting their success at PSU over time.

Three Main Database Sections:
- Intake
  - Acquire initial demographic and misc resource usage data
- Academic Coaching Program
  - Track data specific to student coaching
- Academic Connect Program
  - Track and compare data over multiple terms
Project Scope

- **Requirements Gathering** (assess core needs through customer interviews and review of data currently being collected)
- **Create Database Schema** (core database design)
- **Create the User Interface**
  - Simple and intuitive look and feel (graphic design)
  - Fault tolerance (user interaction design)
  - Student user and management user layouts (differentiated layouts by user type)
- **Create Useful Reports** (manager utility)
Why should you pick US?

• Databases are the new hip thing (if you like money and job security)
• Use your own recent experiences as a student to help inform us what helps students succeed
• Have professional IT oversight and guidance throughout the project
• If you are continuing on at PSU as a grad student, you might even get a job working at for PSU Auxiliary Services
Expectations

- Do your best
- Learn something new from us
- Teach us from your experience
- Work with a real-world client to create and achieve a finished product
- PSU Housing Swag
- Enjoy and have fun!