

## **2012 Noel-Levitz Retention Excellence Awards Recognize Innovative Student Success Programs**

**CORALVILLE, Iowa, July 2, 2012** - Noel-Levitz, the leading higher education consulting firm specializing in student retention, recruitment, financial aid, market research, and communications development, today announced the winners of the 2012 Lee Noel and Randi Levitz Retention Excellence Awards. The awards recognize innovative campus retention programs that have encouraged students to succeed and persevere through graduation.

“Each year these awards recognize the most successful, state-of-the-art retention programs in use today,” said Tim Culver, vice president, Noel-Levitz. “This year’s honorees have made great strides in student retention, and we are pleased to recognize them for these efforts. The winners demonstrated measurable institutional outcomes, originality and creativity, as well as excellent use of resources and adaptability for use at other institutions.”

The following institutions will be formally recognized for their winning retention efforts at this year’s National Conference on Student Recruitment, Marketing and Retention, taking place July 24-26 in Chicago, Ill.:

### **~Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.: “Course Signals”**

Course Signals is a real-time, very early intervention system providing students with concrete steps toward improvement in classes where they may be in danger of failing. This improves their chances for success, lays a foundation for success in future classes, and, ultimately, improves retention and graduation rates. The program makes use of analytics and a Purdue-developed predictive algorithm. The system provides an automated way for instructors to reach out to students in need of help early in the semester, when they have the most opportunity to improve.

### **~Coconino Community College, Flagstaff, Ariz.: “CCC2NAU”**

Recognizing the transfer process between community college and a four-year institution contains hurdles, the presidents of Northern Arizona University (NAU) and Coconino Community College (CCC) created a bridge program that goes far beyond the traditional articulation agreement model. The program, CCC2NAU, allows for close collaboration to share staff, student records, and office space, resulting in increased retention and degree completions. Students take advantage of the smaller class sizes, more personalized instruction, and lower tuition at the community college while getting the connection to the university community.

### **~Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, Frankfort, Ky.: “Project Graduate”**

Project Graduate is a statewide initiative designed to recruit, retain, and graduate returning adult learners with 80 or more credit hours but no bachelor degree. The project is a partnership among all public four-year institutions in Kentucky. The components of the program include campus action plans that outline the high-touch student incentives and services designed to recruit and retain students, highly skilled Project Graduate advocates who serve adult students at each campus, and a Project Graduate team to implement campus-specific action plans.

### **~ Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa.: “Center for Male Engagement”**

The Community College of Philadelphia’s (CCP) Center for Male Engagement (CME) was established in 2009 through a Predominantly Black Institutions Program grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Geared toward African-American males, CME provides a community where males are supported by peers and mentors and encouraged to take advantage of myriad academic and social opportunities. CME addresses the individual academic needs, learning styles, attitudes, and social and academic backgrounds of the students while engaging their family members as collaborators in students’ academic success.

The Retention Excellence Awards Program™ was established by Noel-Levitz in 1989 to honor outstanding achievements in student retention by colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada. Winners are selected by leading campus-based retention practitioners. Case studies of the winning schools are available on [www.noellevitz.com/awards](http://www.noellevitz.com/awards).

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Noel-Levitz is a nationally recognized higher education consulting firm that focuses on strategic planning for enrollment and student success. Each year, campus executives across the U.S. meet regularly with Noel-Levitz to accomplish their goals for student recruitment, marketing, student retention, and strategic enrollment management. Since 1973, Noel-Levitz has partnered with more than 2,700 colleges and universities throughout North America. The firm offers executive consulting, custom research and benchmark data, innovative tools and technologies, side-by-side plan development and execution, and resources for professional development.