

# Building an Integrated Transfer Partnership: The NOVA-Mason ADVANCE Program

Texas Pathways Institute – April 12, 2021



**ADVANCE**  
A NOVA | MASON PARTNERSHIP

# Your presenters

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- Elizabeth Bartles, Transfer Pathways and Prior Learning Coordinator, George Mason University
- Janette Kenner Muir, Associate Provost, Academic Initiatives & Services, George Mason University, ADVANCE Exec Lead
- Jennifer Nelson, Coordinator of University Transfer & Initiatives, Northern Virginia Community College
- Sheri Robertson, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Interim Chief Academic Officer, Northern Virginia Community College, ADVANCE Exec Lead

# Objectives for Today

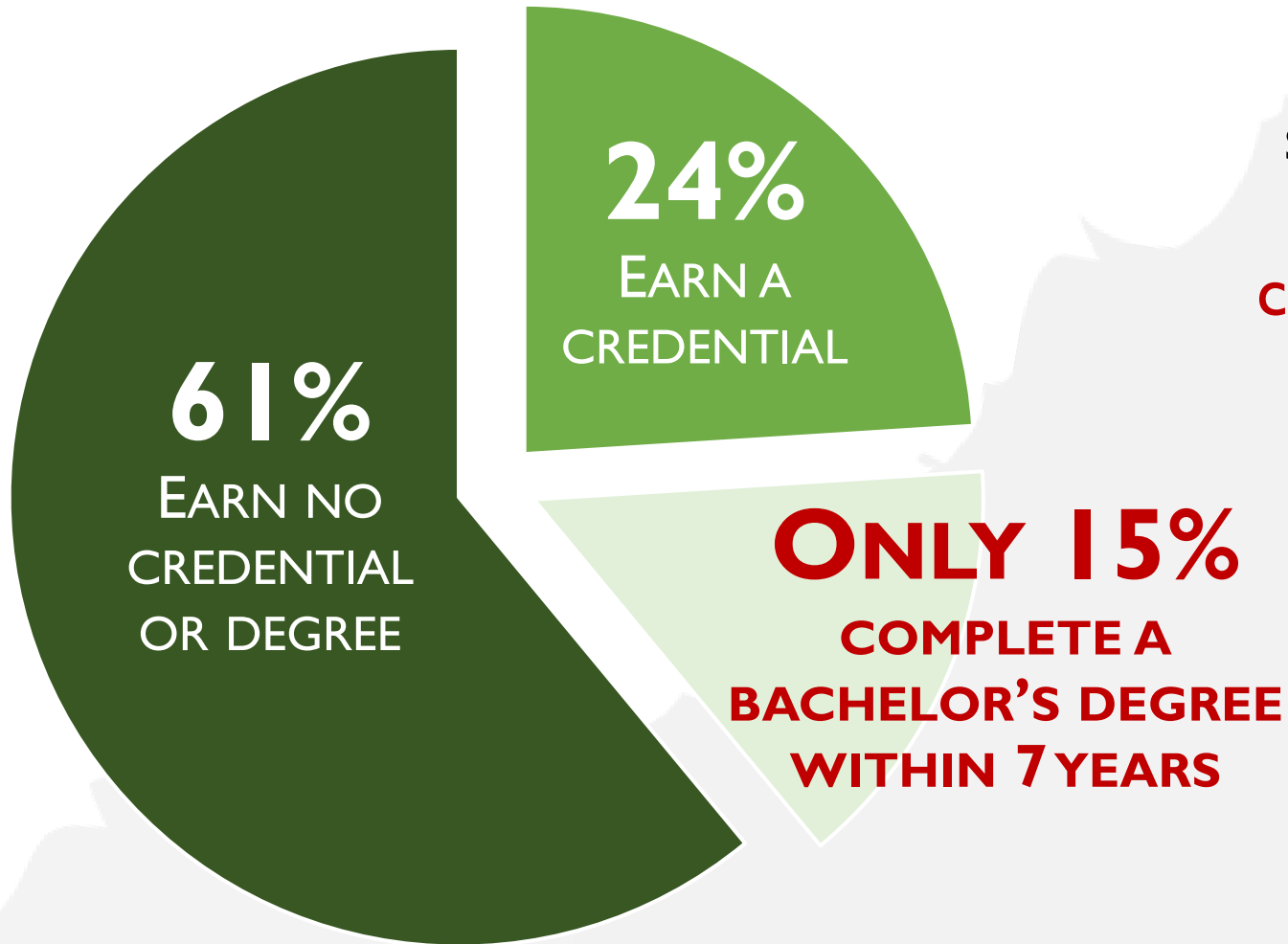
- Learn about an integrated model of transfer partnership through the ADVANCE case study
- Understand the process required to develop an in-depth and sustainable transfer partnership program
- Review the advantages to students of having a transfer partnership with wrap-around services
- Weigh the costs and benefits of such a transfer partnership to inform future decision-making about institutional partnership models
- Consider ways to assess programmatic success

Let's hear from one of our students....





# The Transfer Problem in Virginia



Virginia community college students accumulate nearly a **semester's worth of excess credits** by the time they earn a bachelor's degree



*\*Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) Operations and Performance of the Virginia Community College System, September 11, 2017.*

# The Purpose of ADVANCE



Increase number of  
NOVA students who  
**GRADUATE** with  
2- year and 4-year  
degrees



Decrease  
**TIME**  
it takes to  
graduate

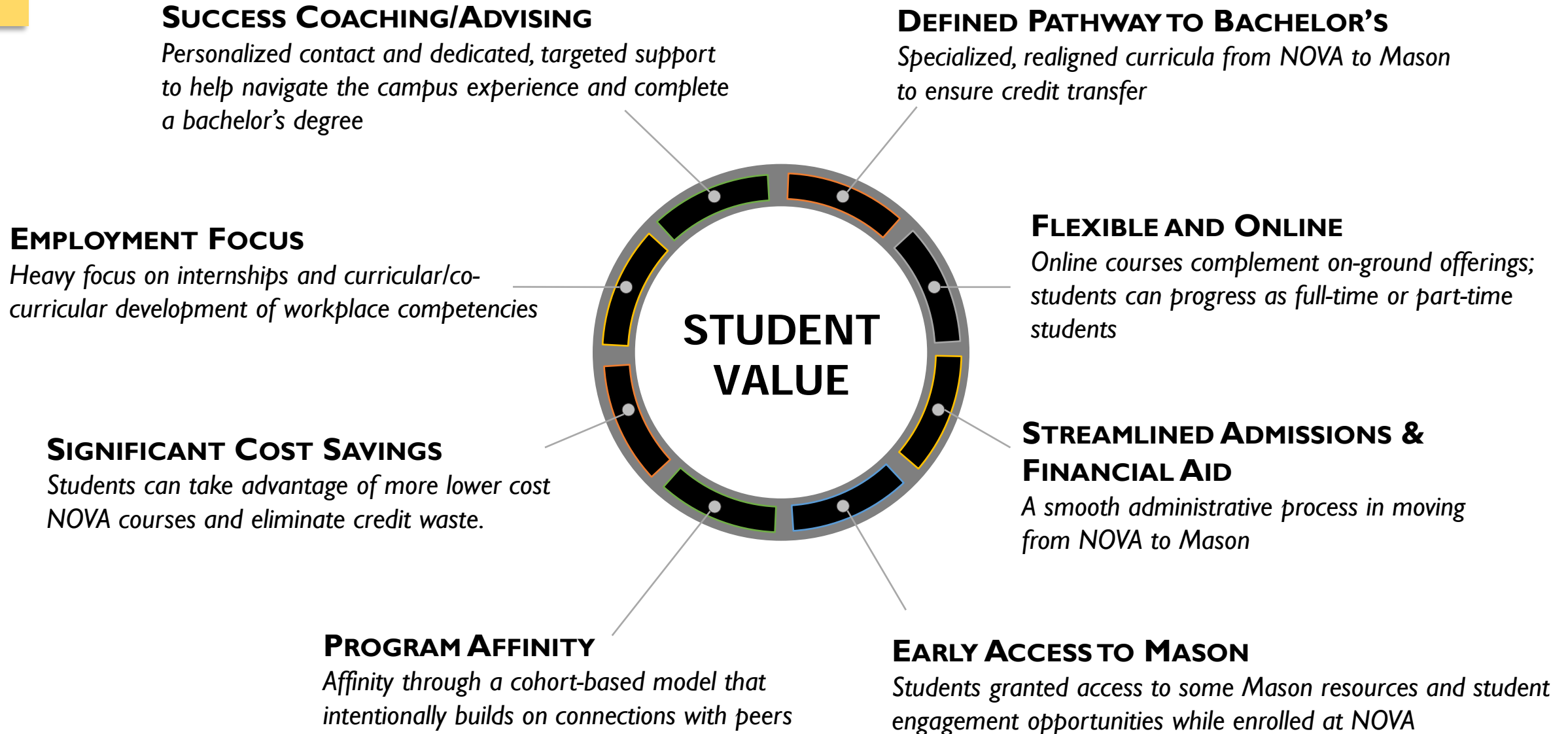


Decrease the  
**COST** and the  
**Excess Credit**



Improve **ADVISING**  
and **STUDENT**  
**SUPPORT** for  
transfer students

# The Value Proposition for ADVANCE Students



# Program Highlights

Total enrollment:

1806



+671 from spring 2020

First-generation



+15% from spring 2020

175  
students  
matriculated to  
Mason in fall 2020

+127 from spring 2020

Pell-eligible



+11% from spring 2020

**TOP PATHWAYS:**

Cybersecurity AAS to BAS

Business Admin AS to  
Business Management BS

Nursing AAS to Nursing BSN

Science AS to Biology BS

Brand new



to NOVA

## Enrollment Highlights

- 1708 active students, 155 for Spring 2021
- 60% students of color
- Fall 2018 retention rate of 83% and the Spring 2019 cohort of 190 students has a retention rate of 89%, compared to First-Time at NOVA Associate Degree-Seeking Students at 65%
- 4 students graduating this year

## Notable Mentions:

- Started scholarships fund for unpaid internships through the Strada Grant
- Distributed over \$200,000 to more than 100 scholarship recipients
- Launched the Career Accelerator Tool
- Created All ADVANCE Team Meeting and Community Resources Site



# Resources Available to ADVANCE Students



# Career Planning in ADVANCE

**ADVANCE** a NOVA | MASON partnership.

Pathway Explorer



Careers



SELECT an Area of Study

SELECT a MASON Degree

SELECT a NOVA Degree

Pathway Explorer



Careers



Enter a career title

## Business & Hospitality Management



General and  
Operations Managers

\$87K /yr  
median  
salary

High  
growth



Advertising and  
Promotions  
Managers

\$65K /yr  
median  
salary

Low  
growth

# Break-Out Sessions

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- Creating Pathways – Elizabeth
- The Success Coach Model – Jennifer
- Policies and practices – Sheri and Janette (main room)
  - Overview – what we do
  - How we do it – implementation
  - What we've learned so far
  - Questions

# Summary and Final Questions

Thank you for joining us today!

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