

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Fall 2017

DASH GRANTS AVAILABLE

To qualified undergraduate students with an unexpected financial emergency (not tuition or books).

Information available from
Campus 411

Office of Academic Programs

Cleveland State University

2121 Euclid Ave – MC 107
216 875-9732

THIRD STUDENT SUCCESS UPDATE

STARFISH KUDOS – THEY WORK!

Most of you make use of Starfish and are aware of our efforts to encourage faculty to make more use of its capabilities. We continue to encourage you to use Starfish to “flag” students who are struggling. But, we’d also like to draw your attention to another feature of Starfish that you may not have considered: the ability to PRAISE students who are doing well by sending them “kudos.” Perhaps you’re like me and thought that kudos are not worth bothering with? We’ve just conducted an analysis of the kudos sent by CSU faculty and the results are remarkable!

As you’ll see in the summary that follows, we used Civitas Illume Impact to compare the performance of students who received kudos to the performance of similar students who did not. The analysis shows that kudos ARE associated with positive outcomes for students. Students who received kudos persisted at significantly higher rates (3.7%) than comparable students who did not receive them.

Did students receive kudos *because* they were engaging in good academic behaviors, so of course they persisted? Or, did the kudos *cause* the students who got them to do well? The analysis doesn’t tell us which of these statements is closer to the truth. However, it’s safe to say that kudos correctly identified students who were doing things that led to persistence and likely had the effect of reinforcing those behaviors. And, it’s also possible that the kudos encouraged students to intensify the behaviors that were helping them to succeed.

So, please consider using Starfish to PRAISE students when they’re doing well, as well as to warn them when they’re going off the rails. First-generation college students, of whom we have a large number at CSU, often experience doubts about their ability to succeed in college. Sending them a kudo sends them a signal that what they’re doing is actually working and helps to overcome the self-doubts they may be experiencing.



Fall semester

Starfish Kudos

About illum IMPACT

illum Impact conducts an apples to apples comparison of eligible student groups who did and did not participate in particular outreach initiatives in order to see if the initiative had a significant impact on persistence.

Starfish Kudos

Kudos are positive reinforcement flags that are a part of Cleveland State's Starfish software. There are three main types of KUDOS:

Keep up the good work!
LASSI! You did it!
Showing improvement

Instructors voluntarily opt in to utilize Kudos as a way to engage and encourage the success of their students.



3.7%

lift in persistence among all 8,946 analyzed participants



7.1% lift in persistence among first semester freshmen



9.6% lift in persistence among part-time students



11.6% lift in persistence among students in the bottom quartile



3.8% lift in persistence among students in the second quartile



15.6% lift in persistence among American Indian students

5.5% lift in persistence among Black/African American students

4.1% lift in persistence among Hispanic/Latino students

Notes about the analysis

Data in this analysis includes all KUDOS data from terms Fall 2015, Spring 2016, and Fall 2016. Data from Spring 2017 will not be available until after the census date of Fall 2017.

Lift indicates students who DID receive starfish KUDOS versus demographically similar students who did NOT.

All enrolled undergraduate students are eligible to participate in the KUDOS initiative provided their instructor utilizes KUDOS.

More KUDOS appear to be given in Fall terms (3,352 and 3,118) versus Spring (2,475).

KUDOS given in the Fall (4%) appear to have more of an impact on persistence than Spring (2%).