

## **Patrick & Henry Community College and Ferrum College**

### **Executive Summary**

With funding from a Collaborative Equitable-Attainment Grant from SCHEV, Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) will partner with Ferrum College to implement a pilot intervention strategy geared at addressing the student group with the biggest success gap when compared to institutional benchmarks. Both campuses have identified African American males as the student group with the largest success gap and will work to increase equity and attainment for this group through expanded use of early alert systems. Specifically, both colleges will explore the impact of an early alert system when paired with a bridge position that will take action once a student has been flagged by a faculty or staff as at risk and ensure that the student is connected with any needed resources to help the student meet with success.

P&HCC and Ferrum both utilize an early alert system to identify at-risk students, which substantial research confirms has a positive impact on student retention and completion. If funded by SCHEV, this project will allow both campuses to go a step farther as part of the pilot intervention and provide for personnel to serve as an intermediate step between a student being flagged in the system and ensuring the students' needs are met. Both P&HCC and Ferrum College are confident that if the gap between a student being flagged and a student then receiving connection to needed resources is addressed under this initiative, both campuses will see increased success rates for the target population of African American males.

As part of this initiative, P&HCC and Ferrum will take a deep dive into the data outcomes for the pilot student group to assess effectiveness of the early alert intervention strategy and share the results of these efforts. If this pilot proves effective, both campuses plan to expand the pilot to other at-risk student groups in order to continue to address attainment gaps among the two student bodies.