

Strategies and Practices for Effective Assessment In Community Colleges

Empowering our diverse communities for success



Anson Green

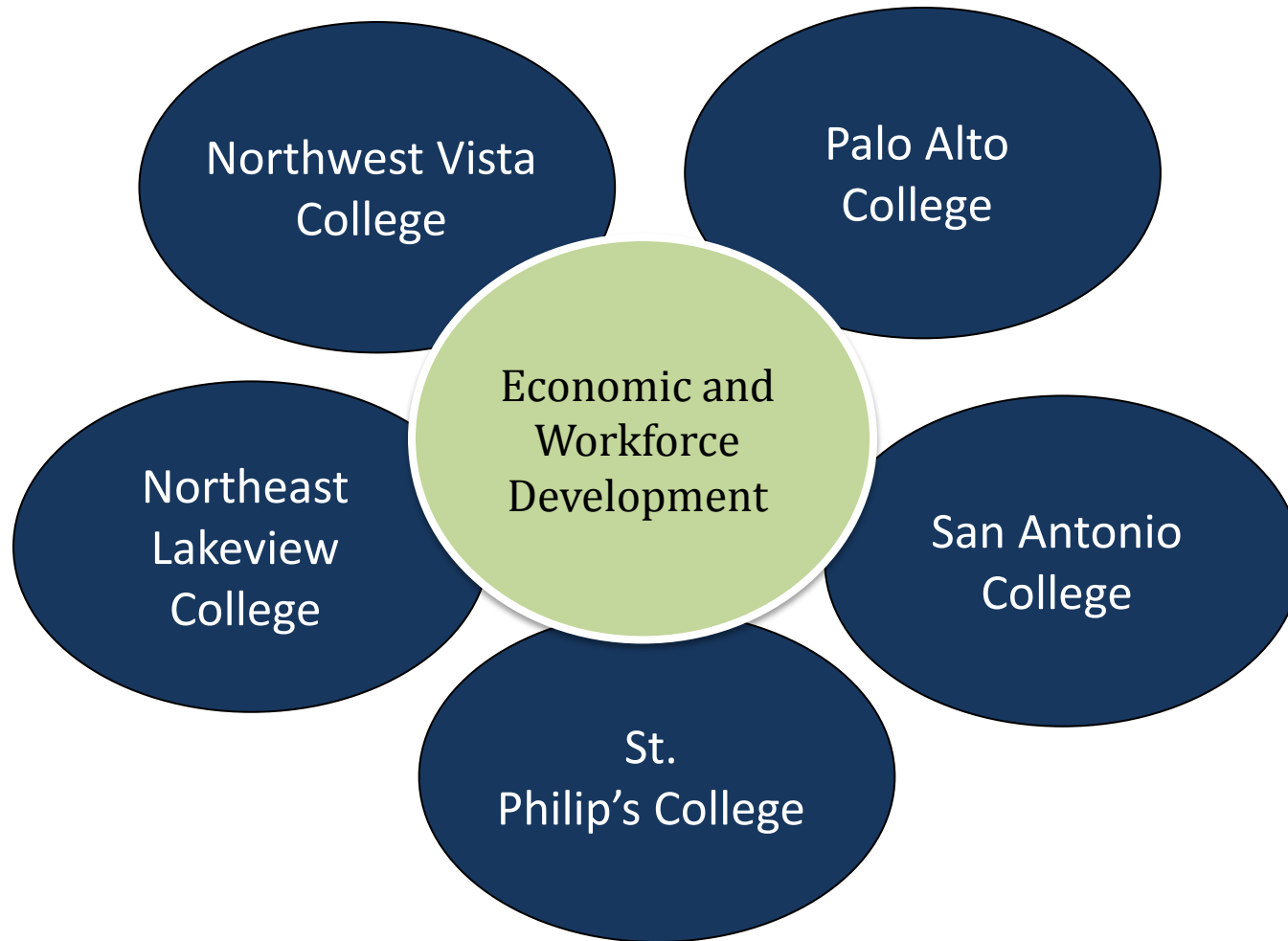
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ALAMO
COLLEGES

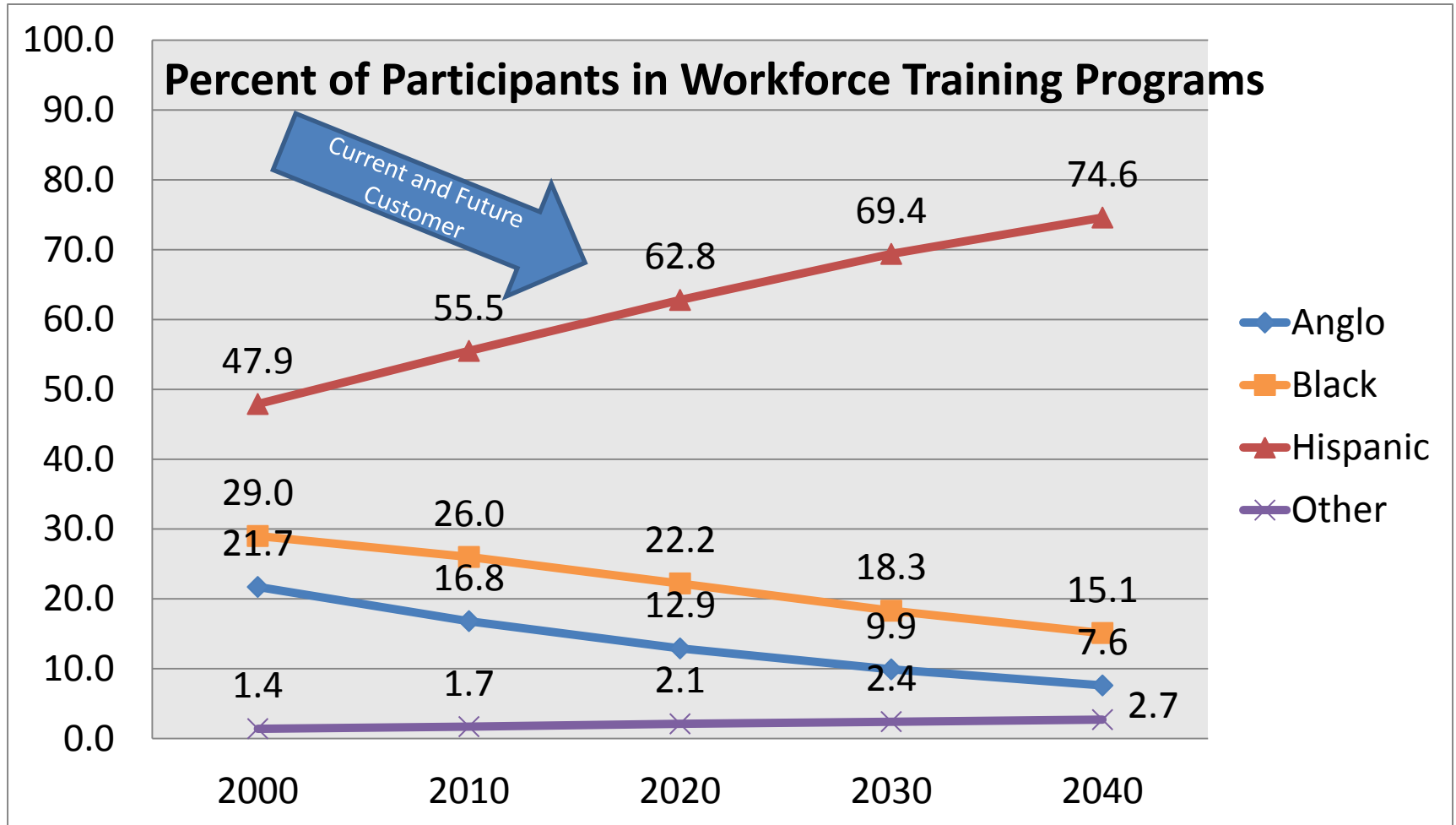
About Alamo Colleges

San Antonio, Texas



The College Challenge

Changing Customer, Same System



The New Texas Challenge, Steve Murdock et al. 2003.

Why is this Important?

Challenges with Access

Lower / Less

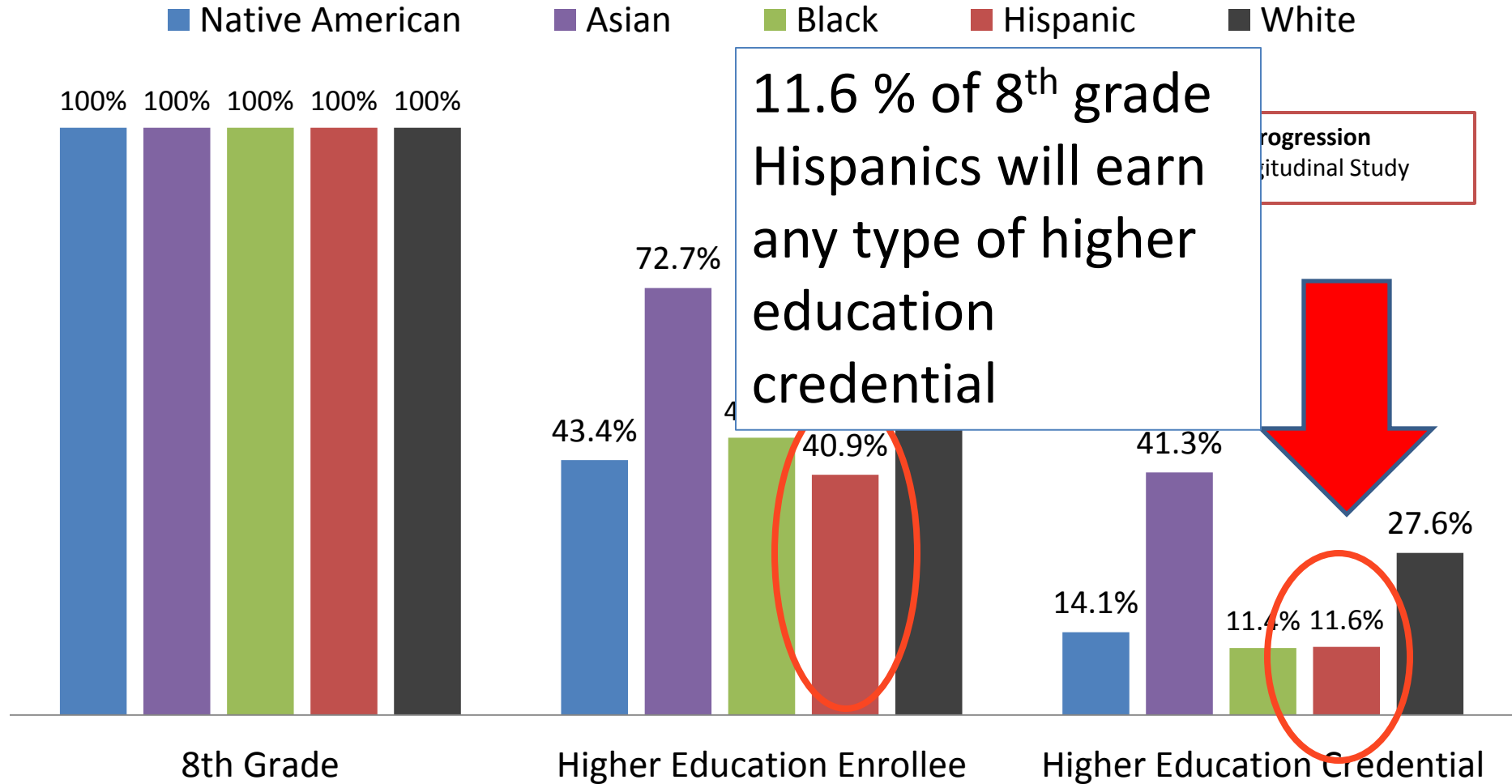
- Educational attainment
- Reading on grade level
- Graduation rates
- College access /completion
- Lower per capita income

Higher / More

- Limited English proficiency
- Drop out rates
- Rates of unemployment



Why We Must Invest in Innovation



So we have a large problem with college completion in our Hispanic/immigrant population

- Fastest growing college customer
- 1st & 2nd generation immigrants
- Looming economic impacts

So we have a large problem with college completion in our Hispanic/immigrant population

- Fastest growing college customer

- 1st & 2nd largest

- Looming challenge

It's a huge problem for community college responsiveness and relevancy

One of the PROBLEMS...

Colleges often do a very
weak job of assessing students

Notice I said “assessing”

We do a lot of “testing” for college entrance, but we do very little “assessment”

The RESULTS of testing...

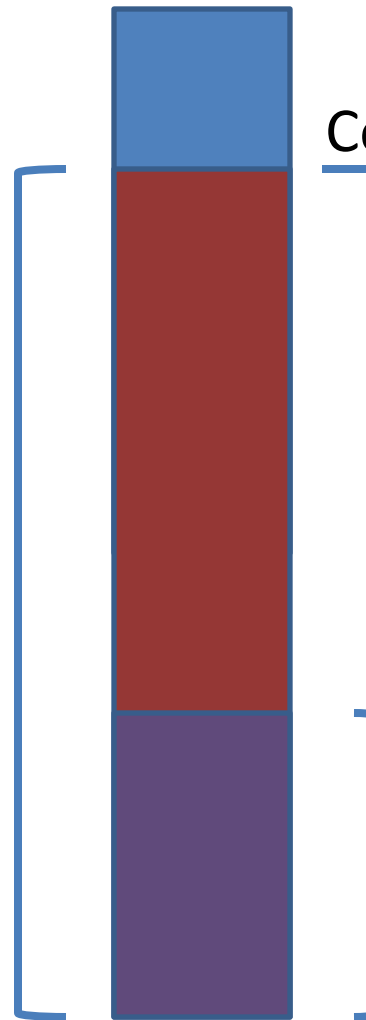
Students get **stuck in remediation and ESL and NEVER TRANSITION** to college credit and training

Focus on Access/ Focus on Completion

System Impacts of Changing Student Population

85%

In Developmental
Education



College Ready

Less than 10% of these students ever transfer to a college credit class in 3 years

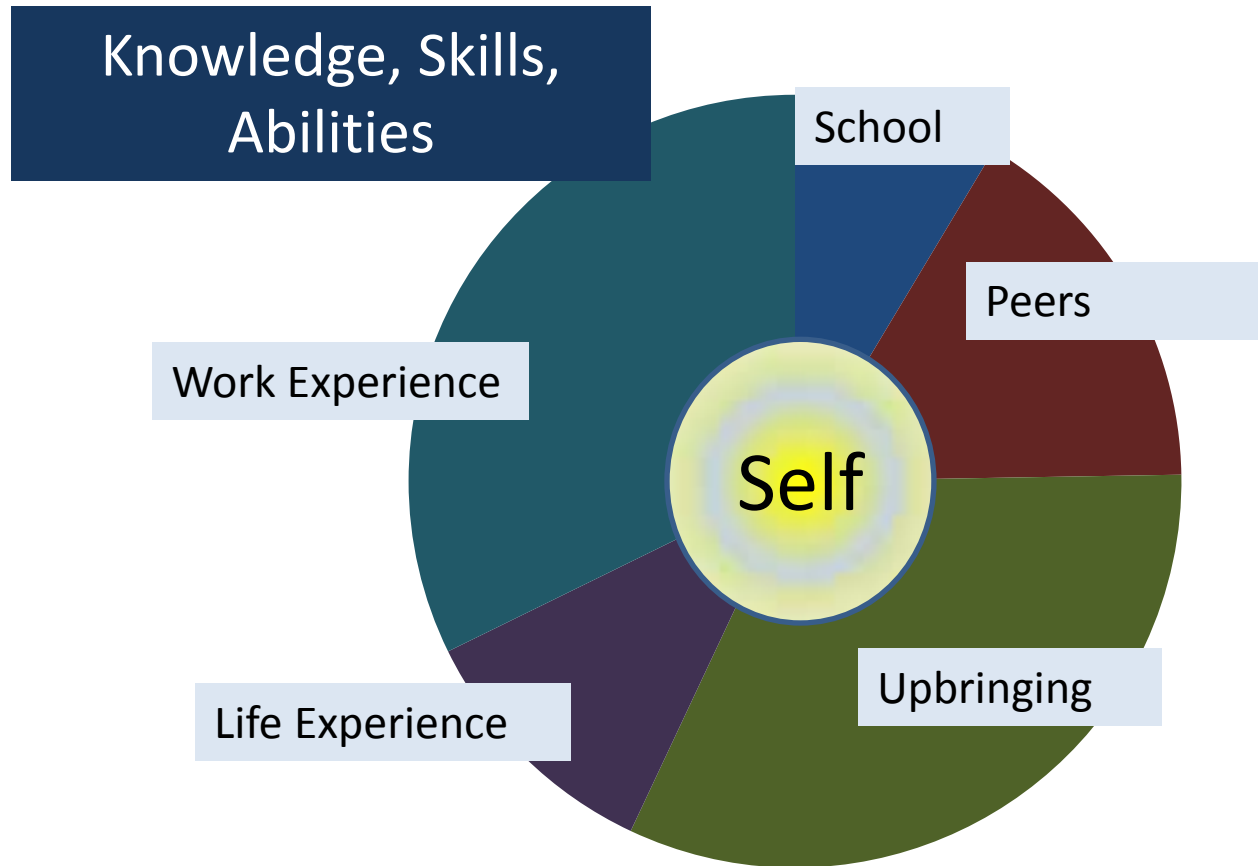
$\frac{1}{3}$ in the Lowest Level

- English learners
- Learning disabled
- GED achievers

Poor assessment at the start is one of the reasons we have such poor completion

How do we learn?

Assessment, Not Just “Testing”



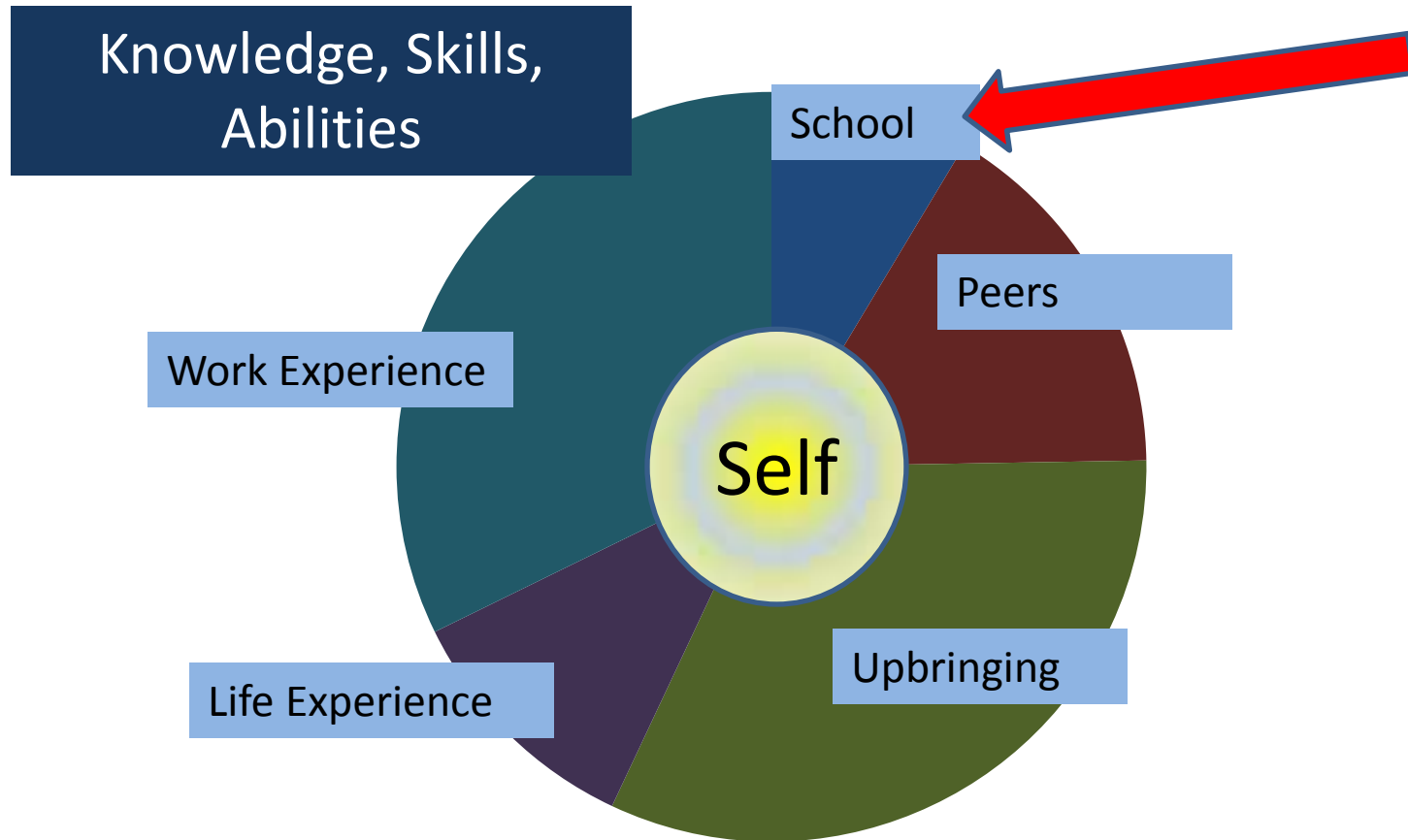
Of this, what do college entrance tests measure?

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Not much!

How do we learn?

Assessment, Not Just “Testing”



Problems with college tests

- ✓ Computer-based
- ✓ Are not normed on English language learners
- ✓ Do not measure participant job skills, deep knowledge, or abilities (past and current performance)
- ✓ Do not provide information about training and employment assets
- ✓ Provide no indicator of advising and support needs

The pitfalls of standard “assessment” models

- Lack of preparation
- Lack of exposure to standardized assessment process and protocols
 - There is only one right answer
 - Bubble in the answer
- Still only a slice of knowledge, skills, abilities

What we have found that works



RAPID: Real Assessment for Progress and Independent Development

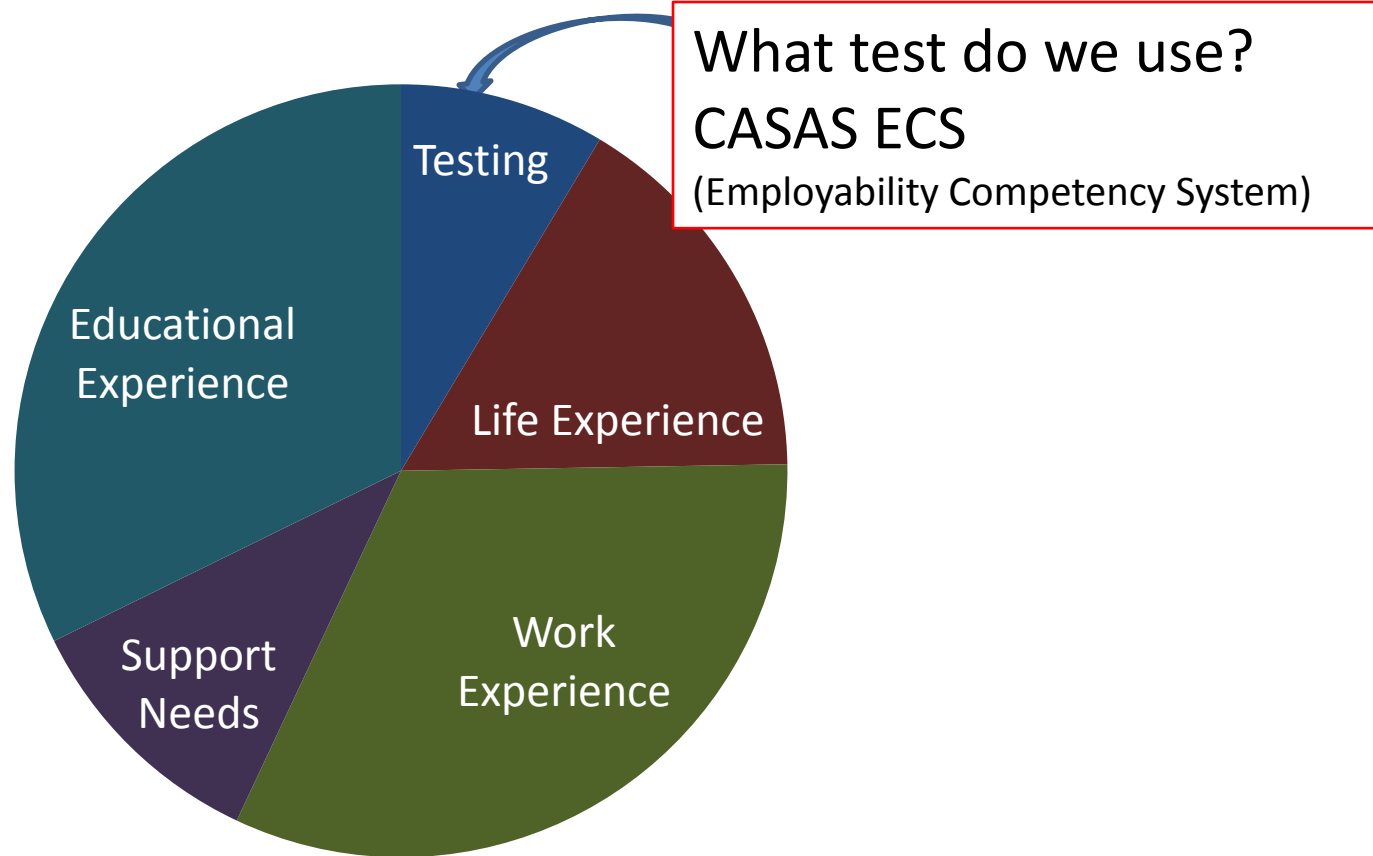
What we have found that works



RAPID: Real Assessment for Progress and Independent Development

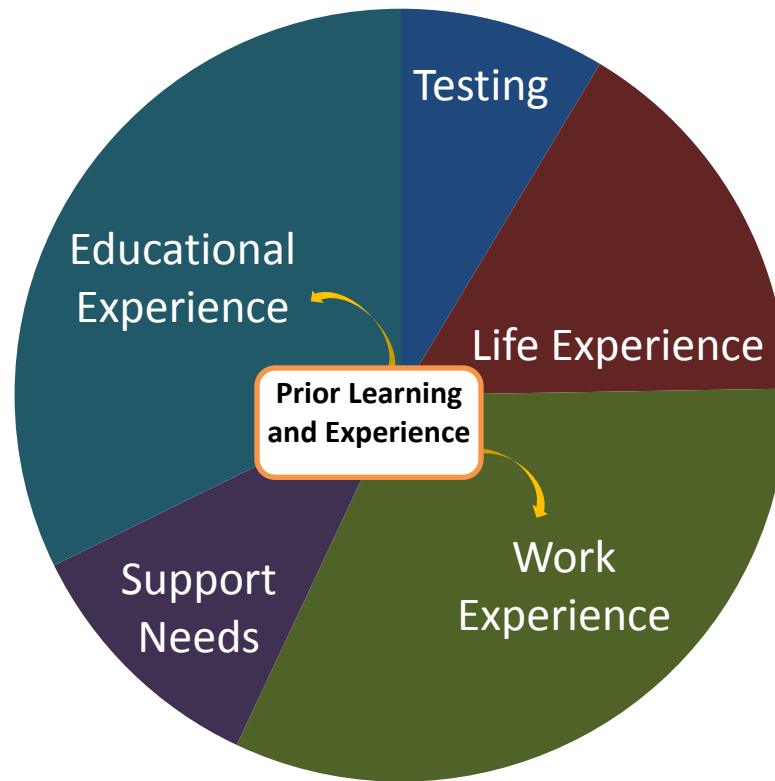
What do we measure?

Assessment, Not Just “Testing”



What do we measure?

Assessment, Not Just “Testing”



APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: Last _____ First _____
 Address: _____ St _____ Zip _____
 City _____ (Cell) _____
 Phone#: (Hm.) _____ En _____
 (Leave Message at) _____

How Did You Hear About This Program?

Family/Friend Alamo Colleges Flyer Teacher
 Youth Workforce Solutions Alamo Catholic Charities

2) EDUCATION AND TRAINING INTERESTS: c

HEALTH SERVICES

Nurse Aid in Health(CNA)
 Community Health Worker
 Medical Assistant
 Dental Assistant
 Pharmacy Technician
 Health Information Technology

CONSTRUCTION

Industrial
 Supply C
 Apartme
 Technici
 Informa

Education History

1. What is the highest grade you completed in school?
2. Do you have a high school diploma or GED?
3. Have you ever attended Alamo Colleges?

Language (LEP/CASAS)

1. What was the first language you learned?
2. What is your primary language at home?
3. Have you been in an ESL program before?
4. Have you been educated or trained outside the United States?

The Alamo Colleges do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, or national origin.
 Version 9.18.12 (All earlier forms should be destroyed)

2) EDUCATION AND TRAINING INTERESTS
 This section collects detailed information about your education.

College/ Training History
Education you completed

- Elementary (*primaria*)
- Middle (*secundaria*)
- Some high school (*preparatoria*)
- High school diploma
- GED
- ESL
- Technical school/certificate
- 2 Year college degree
- 4 Year college degree
- Graduate degree
- Other _____

- USA
- USA
- USA
- USA
- USA
- USA
- USA
- USA
- USA
- USA
- USA

- Other country:
- Other country:
- Other country:
- Other country:
- Other country:
- Other country:
- Other country:
- Other country:
- Other country:
- Other country:

Education History

1. Did either your parents or grandparents attend college? Yes No
2. Have you ever attended a training program or college? Yes No
 - a. Where? Alamo Colleges Other college Military Private school (Career Point, Hallmark etc.)
 - b. What classes did you take? Yes No Unsure
 - c. Was it a no-cost (grant funded) training program? Yes No
 - d. Did you complete the program? Yes No Unsure
 - e. Do you have any college holds? (traffic tickets etc.) Yes No Unsure
 - f. Are you on academic probation or financial aid probation/suspension? Yes No

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Application – Alamo I-BEST

DO NOT WRITE HERE – STAFF USE ONLY

DO NOT WRITE HERE

G Y R

****If internationally educated, please complete Form C****
 Request copy of HS Diploma or Technical Certificates

Clarify any training/developmental certifications he/she has completed

If applicant has been in a Developmental Education program, please indicate:

- Program(s) _____
- Years _____
- Levels Completed _____

If applicant left school before graduating, ask to complete?



Application: Alamo I-B

1) APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: Last _____ First _____

International Students

- A. What is your native country? _____
Have you ever attended school in the United States?
 Yes No # of years _____
- B. Did you attend school in your native country? Yes No
- C. What was the first language you spoke as a child? _____
- D. What is the primary language spoken in your home? _____
- E. Can you read your native language?
 Yes Some No
- F. Can you write your native language?
 Yes Some No
- G. Why do you need to learn more English? Please be specific
that are difficult for you in English. _____
- H. What specific areas of English would you like to improve

- I. Can you read and write English?
 Yes Some No
- J. When people speak English how much do you understand?
 Everything Some A little

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Version 8/30/12 (All earlier forms should be destroyed)



ALAMO COLLEGES

Application: Alamo I-BEST

Real Assessment

- K. When you watch television in English how much do you understand?
 Everything Some A little
- L. When you speak English, how confident do you feel?
 Very confident Unsure Not confident

ESL/ Higher Education

Indicate the ESL and Higher Education classes you have taken.

Type of Program	School	Level
General ESL		<input type="checkbox"/> 1, <input type="checkbox"/> 2, <input type="checkbox"/> 3, <input type="checkbox"/> 4, <input type="checkbox"/> 5, <input type="checkbox"/> 6
ESL Conversation		<input type="checkbox"/> 1, <input type="checkbox"/> 2, <input type="checkbox"/> 3, <input type="checkbox"/> 4, <input type="checkbox"/> 5, <input type="checkbox"/> 6
ESL Reading		<input type="checkbox"/> 1, <input type="checkbox"/> 2, <input type="checkbox"/> 3, <input type="checkbox"/> 4, <input type="checkbox"/> 5, <input type="checkbox"/> 6
ESL Writing		<input type="checkbox"/> 1, <input type="checkbox"/> 2, <input type="checkbox"/> 3, <input type="checkbox"/> 4, <input type="checkbox"/> 5, <input type="checkbox"/> 6
ESL Civics		<input type="checkbox"/> 1, <input type="checkbox"/> 2, <input type="checkbox"/> 3, <input type="checkbox"/> 4, <input type="checkbox"/> 5, <input type="checkbox"/> 6
TOFEL		<input type="checkbox"/> 1, <input type="checkbox"/> 2, <input type="checkbox"/> 3, <input type="checkbox"/> 4, <input type="checkbox"/> 5, <input type="checkbox"/> 6
2 Year college degree	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Where? _____	<input type="checkbox"/> I Passed the TOFEL Test
4 Year college degree	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Where? _____	
Graduate degree	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Where? _____	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Where? _____	

NO NOT WRITE I

If applicant has been in a Program(s) _____

• Years _____

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Results of this assessment

To what extent does the student:

1. Have the basic skills needed to benefit?
2. Have the knowledge and abilities?
3. Have the interest, drive and dedication?
4. Have the income and support?

1. This is testing

**2. This is the
“assessment”**

Outcomes of this assessment

- Low-skilled and immigrant students are successfully placed in the appropriate program
 - I-BEST college credit training (as low as 5th grade)
 - Vocational ESL
 - GED
- **91%** of students successfully transition into training
- **76%** are retained and complete

Questions?

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