HOW DO CENTERS HELP COLLEGES AND STUDENTS?
Centers help colleges plan strategically and implement effectively so they can better serve their students.

The Role of Statewide Student Success Centers

- **Provide Coherence**
  - Create a statewide framework of action, or a lens through which colleges focus their work and integrate their student success efforts.
  - Unify efforts across the state so colleges can collectively meet their state’s completion goals.
  - Provide strategic guidance to the state’s colleges.
  - Identify effective policies and practices and then provide support (technical assistance, professional development) to help scale them statewide.
  - Build partnerships with K-12 and four-year institutions.

- **Connect Policy and Practice**
  - Represent the collective voice of practitioners in state-level policy discussions.
  - Identify and pursue state and system policy changes that support the institutional changes necessary to increase student completion.

- **Convene**
  - Create time and space for faculty and staff to connect and to discuss strategy and implementation.
  - Identify problems common to multiple colleges and help colleges work together to address them.
  - Develop economies of scale in training, professional development, and technical assistance.
  - Encourage engagement at every level of the college (administration, faculty, and staff), particularly with regard to overcoming barriers to change.

- **Improve Data Capacity**
  - Improve data sharing among community colleges and with K-12 and four-year institutions.
  - Establish common data metrics throughout the state.
  - Support deeper use of education and labor market data by practitioners and policymakers.

- **Promote Research and Knowledge Development**
  - Support research projects with colleges (and often with university partners) to evaluate the impact of interventions and identify obstacles to student success.
  - Give colleges strategic guidance that builds on lessons learned in the field, including innovative and effective policies and practices.
  - Provide access to additional resources through the Student Success Center Network.

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Jobs for the Future (JFF) manages the Student Success Center Network and provides support to Centers.