

# **Defining Our Terms**

A Variety of Concepts That Address These Issues

**Grit**: Passion and sustained persistence applied toward long-term achievement, with no particular concern for rewards or recognition along the way

**Growth Mindset**: Belief that basic talents can be developed through dedication and hard work – brains and talent are just the starting point

**Resilience:** Ability to face, overcome, and be strengthened by life's adversities and challenges

**Positive Education:** Educational strategy that blends academic learning with an emphasis on wellbeing



### Same Problem, Different Names

"Today's students are bright, eager, academically ready, and take direction well. They have lots of good qualities but don't have the fundamental skills to take agency in their lives. Call it a lack of coping, resilience, grit, or positive education... they lack the necessary skills to succeed."

Vice President of Student Affairs Public Research University

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Source: Duckworth, Angela. Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance. New York: Scribner, 2015; Dweck, Carol. Mindset:
The New Psychology of Success. New York: Random House, 2006; Newman, Tony. What Works in Building Resilience? London:
Barnardo's, 2004; Seligman, Martin, et al. "Positive Education: Positive Psychology and Classroom Interventions." Oxford
Review of Education 353; (2009): 293-311; Et al. Interviews and analysis.

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# **Examining the Root Cause**



Two Prominent Theories About Why Students Lack Coping and Resilience Skills



#### Today's Students Are 'Soft'

- "Helicopter" parents contribute to lack of independence
- Parents are reluctant to see their children struggle and step in to shield them from consequences
- Students lack experiences and coping skills that help them to bounce back from challenges
- Failure-averse students shut down when they do not succeed

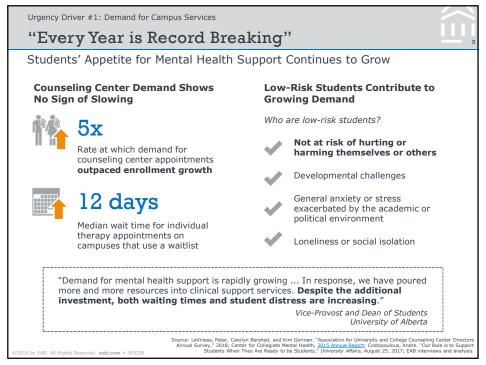


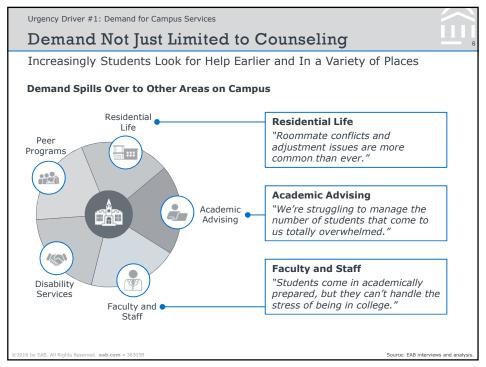
### Today's Students Face More Challenges

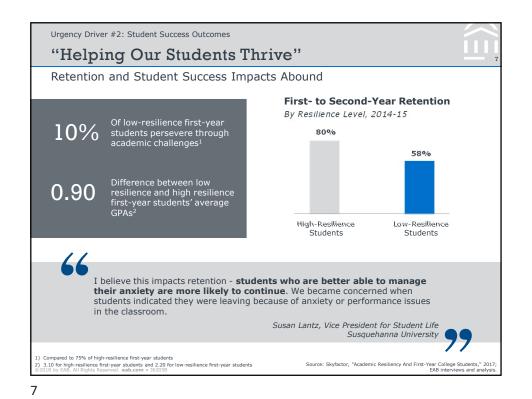
- Student feel uncertain about the future in a charged and tumultuous political climate
- High cost of college and the burden of student debt adds to students' stress and anxiety
- Social pressures and FOMO present 24/7 through social media
- **Competitive job** market magnifies student anxiety



Source: EAB interviews and analysis.





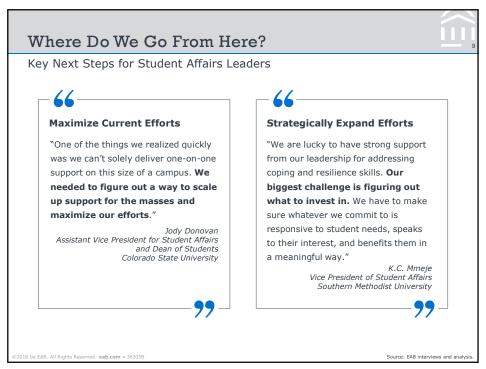


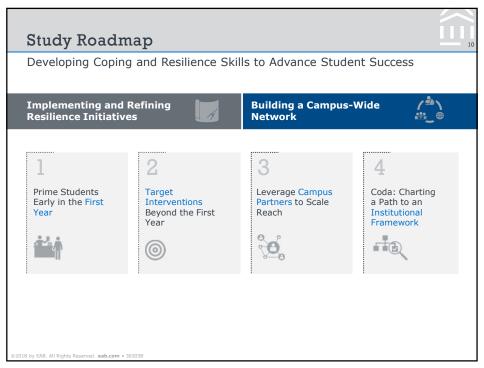
Urgency Driver #3: Enrollment The Shifting Enrollment Landscape Resilience and Well-Being Initiatives Can Be a Competitive Advantage **Increasingly Volatile Enrollment** Conditions... " **A New Competitive** States will see slower growth or declines in the high school **Advantage** graduation rate It's more and more common to hear parents and families asking Of colleges did not meet new 64% student enrollment targets in about the availability of mental health and well-being resources on campus during the admissions process. This creates a lot of CHRONICLE SPECIAL REPORT pressure to make sure we're "Marketing to Survive" prepared to answer those Colleges Hone Their Search for a Competitive questions and provide support Advantage that will be compelling to students and their parents." Dean of Students "A Population in Flux Forces Colleges Private College to Adapt" Colleges are trying an array of strategies in

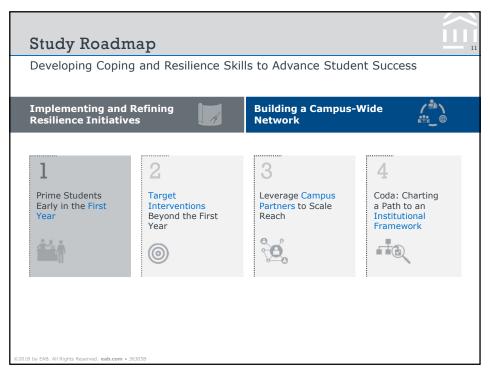
Source: Hoover, Eric and Beckie Supiano. "A Population in Flux Forces Colleges to Adapt." The Chronicle of Higher Education
December 6, 2016; Hoover, Eric. "Marketing to Survive." The Chronicle of Higher Education, February 29, 2016; Selingo
The Future of Enrollment, The Chronicle of Higher Education, 2017, Jaschik, Scott. "The 2017 Survey of Admissions Directon
Pressure All Around," Inside Higher Ed, September 13, 2017; and EAB interviews and analysi

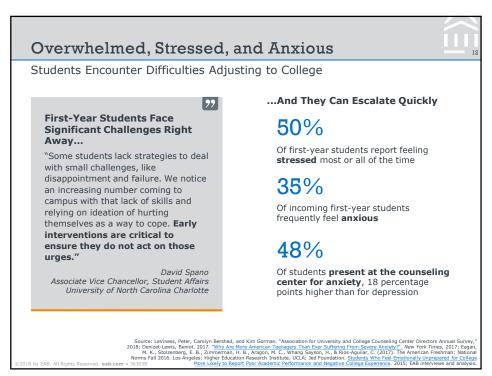
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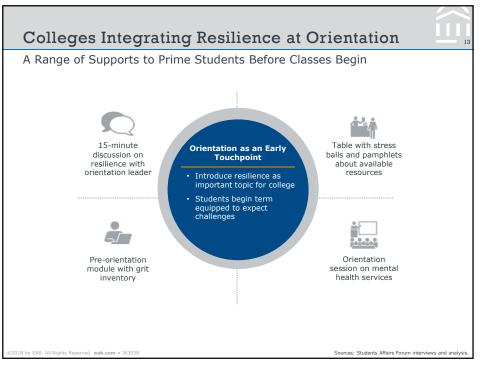
response to changes

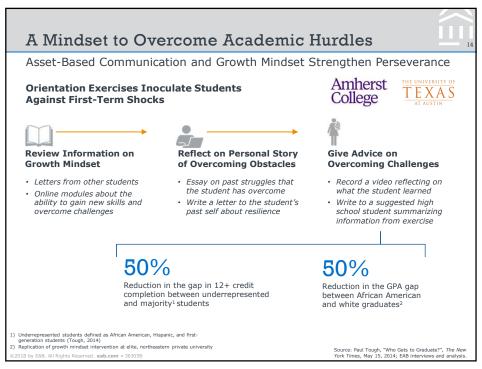












# The First Year is Critical for Resilience Initiatives



Yet Current Efforts Often Miss the Mark in Timing, Depth, and Reach

# **Common Pitfalls**



## **Content Overload**

"Students are inundated with information at orientation and during the first weeks of classes...we can't compete."



### Single Dose Lessons Don't Stick

"We recognize that our 45-minute workshop is not enough to teach students everything they need to be successful."



## **Opt-in Required**

"We offer resilience training through the counseling center, but it's hard to get students to attend."



#### **Doesn't Resonate**

"Our students were all high performers in high school. They don't think they will be the one to fail or struggle, so they don't care until it's too late."

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Source: EAB interviews and analysis.

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# Thinking Beyond Orientation



Susquehanna University Built Resilience Into Their Common Read Program

# Use Input From Students, Faculty, and Staff...



Student committee generates list of topics



Faculty and staff vote on theme and nominate articles to include on reading list

# ...To Develop a Resilience-Themed Reading List

Anthology of 10-15 articles, ranging from excerpts of books on business to war memoirs, including:

- "On Campus, Failure is on the Syllabus" Jessica Bennett
- Excerpt from Option B Sheryl Sandberg and Adam Grant
- "Black Men Emerging" Derrick R. Brooms

# Theme and Skills Infused Across the First Semester

## Summer Essay Assignment

Students write reflective essay on common reading for first year seminar

# **Preview Days Seminar**

Upperclassmen lead sessions on the common reading theme and essay assignment

## **First Year Seminar Discussions**

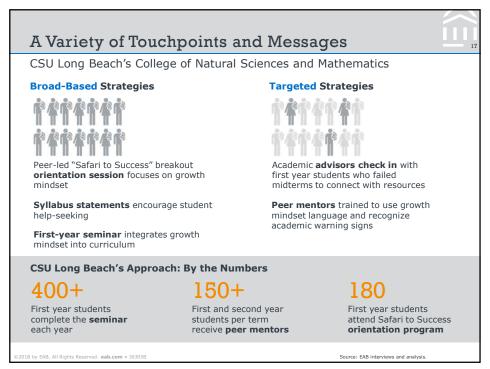
Course curriculum focused on common reading topic

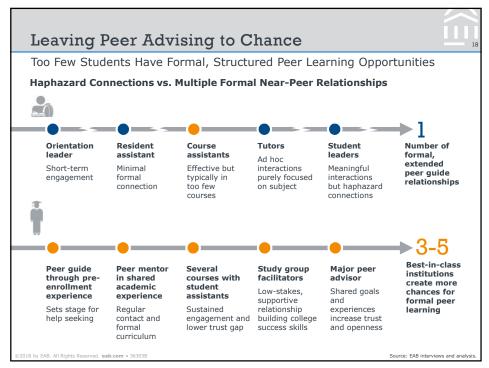
# **Campus-Wide Lecture Series**

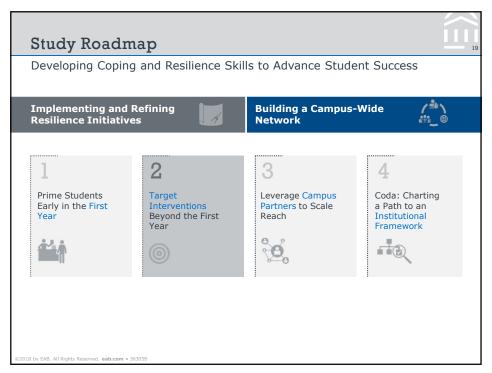
Lectures on common reading reinforce concepts and keep them top of mind

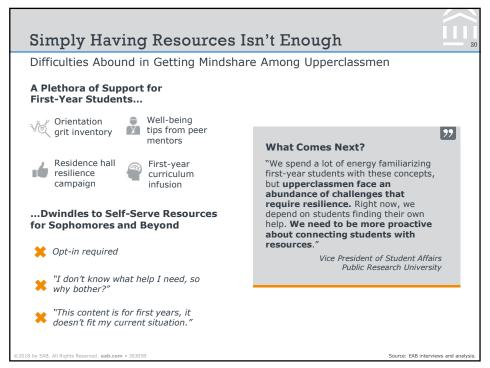
Source: Susquehanna University Common Reading; EAB interviews and analysis.

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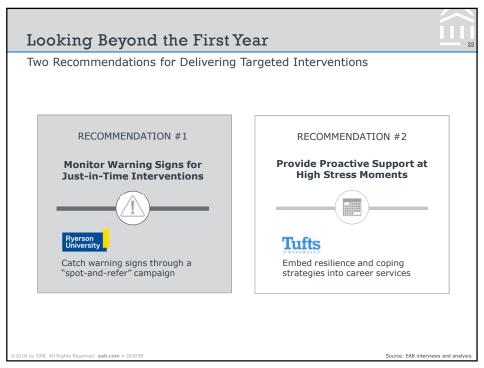


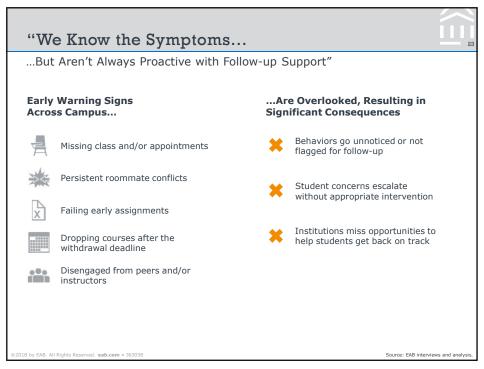


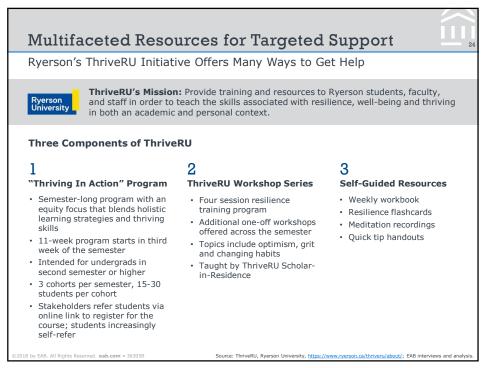


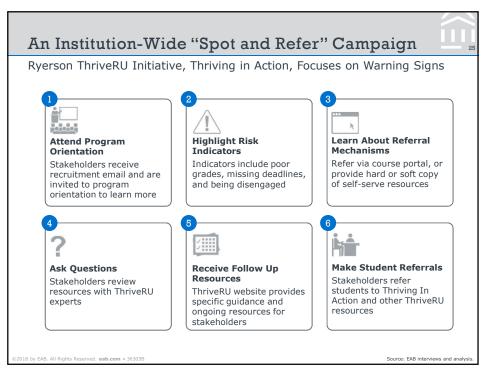


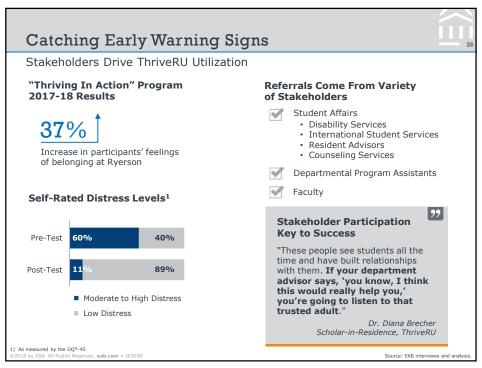


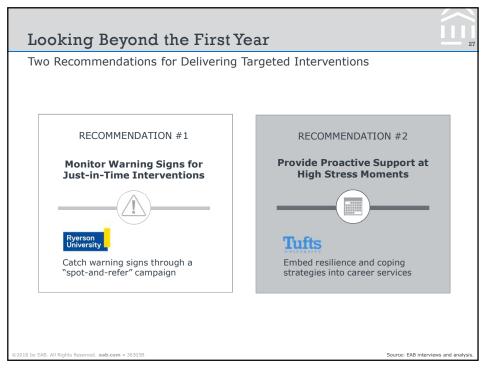


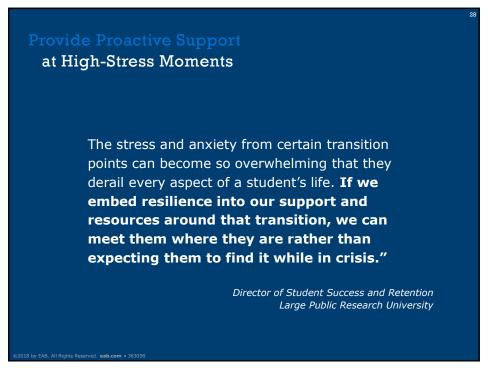












# "We Received Many Qualified Applicants..."



Tufts University Targets Resources to Sophomores in the Career Process

#### Sophomores Face a Number of Big Picture Decisions



"What should I major in?"



"Should I study abroad?"



"Can I afford to do an unpaid internship?"



"Am I a failure because I didn't get that interview?"

#### Tufts Career Center Provides Resilience Skill Building Support



### **Sophomore Career Summit**

One-day event features panel on managing expectations and **coping** with stress



#### **Career Exploration Course**

Curriculum includes strategies to **build and apply resilience** in career development



#### **Resilience One-Pager**

**Quick tips** to promote resilience, cope with rejection, and connect with on and off-campus resources

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Source: EAB interviews and analysis.

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# Resilience and the Job Search



Tufts Career Center's Resilience One-Pager

Applying to jobs or grad/professional school goes hand-in-hand with developing resiliency – the ability to bounce back and keep going after life's inevitable stumbles. The Career Center is here to support you as you face these challenges and work to build your resiliency.

## 3 Things to Remember When Facing Rejection

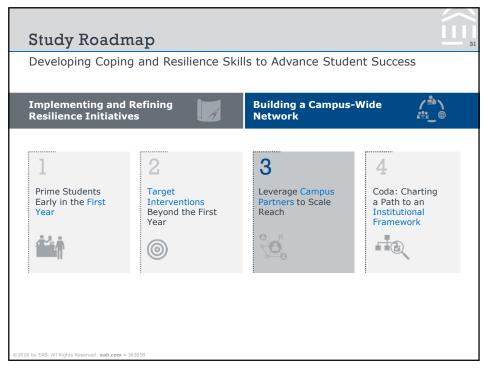
- It's okay to be disappointed. Feeling disheartened or losing confidence after rejection is natural. Believe it or not, these feelings say something good about you! They mean you care about what you're doing.
- 2. Everyone and we mean everyone faces rejection during the job search and/or grad school application process. Whether it's sending an application that disappears into the void, failing to receive a call-back after an interview, or getting all the way to the final round and then hearing a 'no,' you are not alone in facing the challenge of rejection. See below for stories from individuals who have managed similar feelings/situations.
- Your self-worth is not tied to a single (or even several!) rejections. While rejection is difficult, it doesn't diminish all you've accomplished thus far, nor does it predict your ability to succeed in the future.

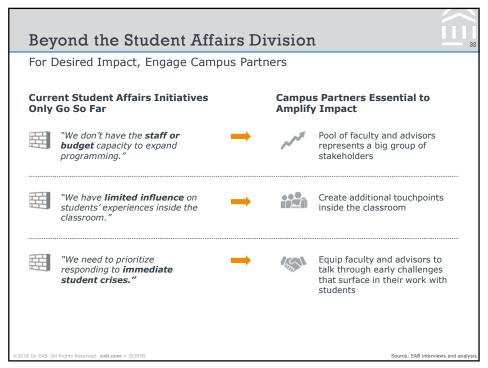
## 5 Ways to Build Resiliency

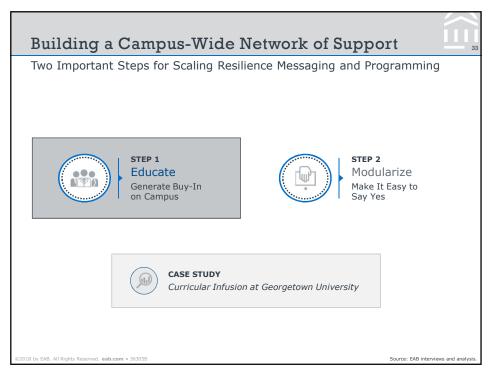
- 1. **Evaluate your belief system:** In the big picture, how do you think about the stress of rejection? Are there ways you could you perceive it differently, i.e., in more helpful and productive terms?
- 2. Be self-aware: Reflect on your levels of resiliency for different areas of life, e.g., personal relationships, academic life, career-related plans. Are you more resilient in some areas and less so in others? Can you apply some of the things that make you more resilient in particular areas to this situation?

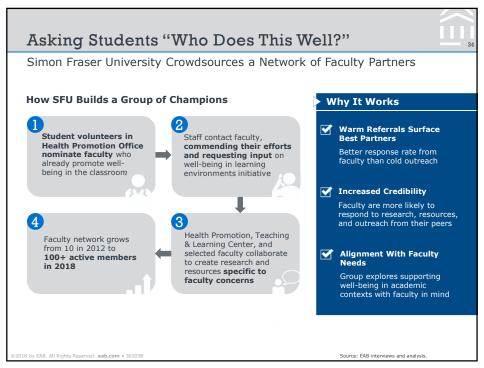
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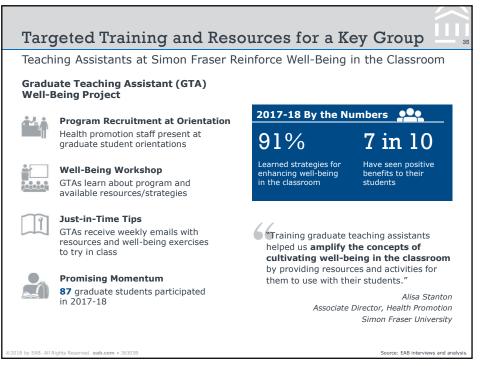
Source: Tufts Career Center, Resiliency and the Job Search; EAB interviews and analysis.

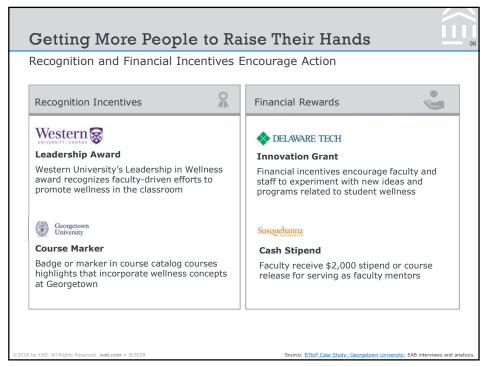


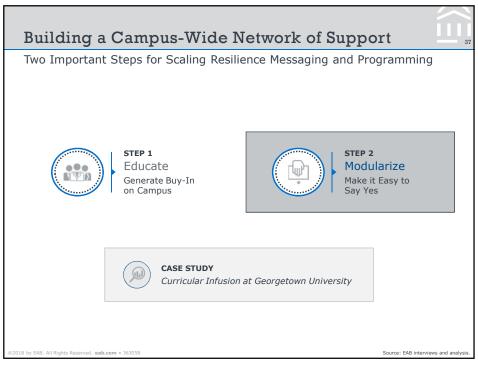


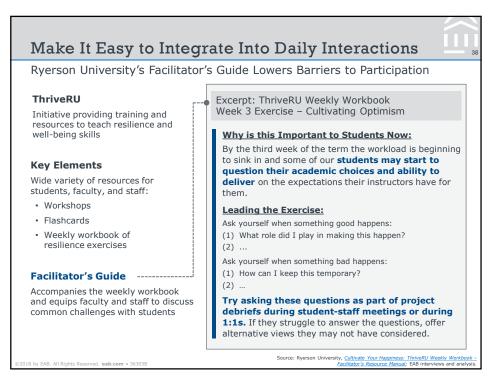


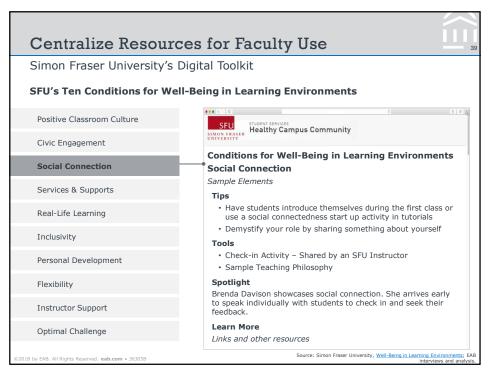


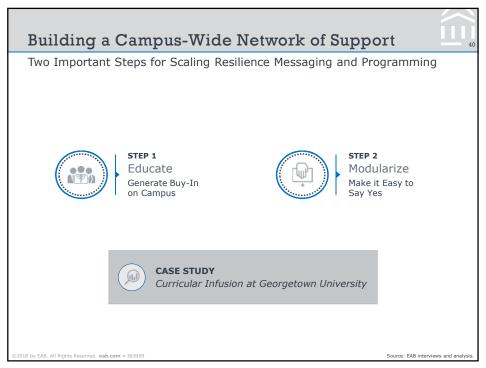


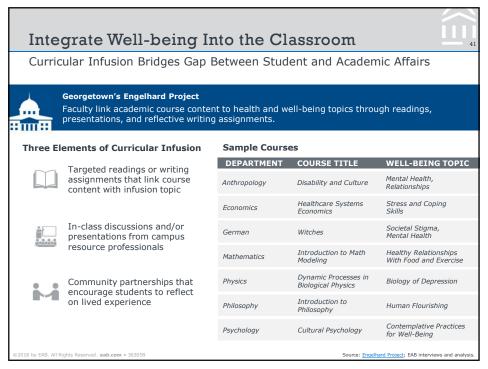


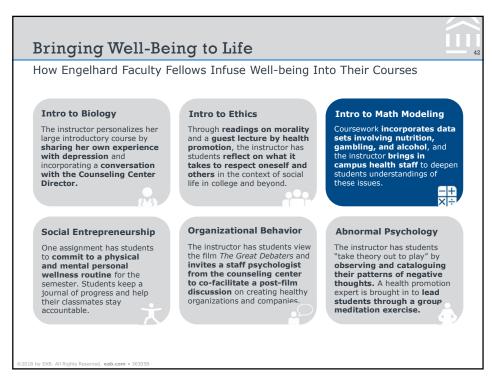


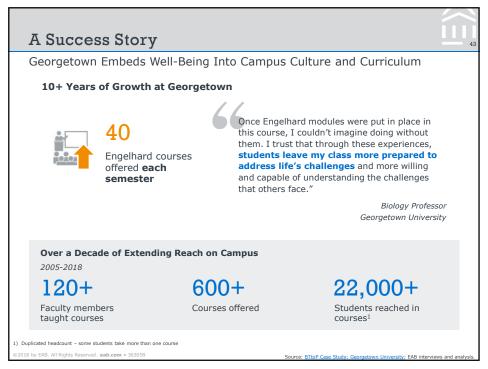


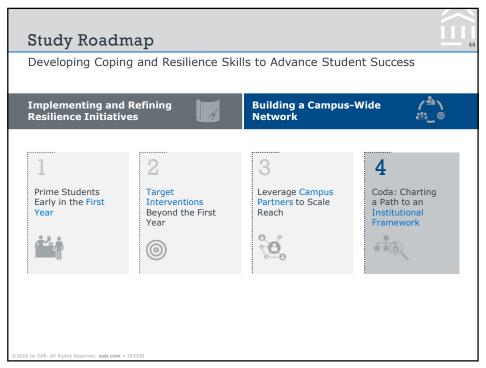


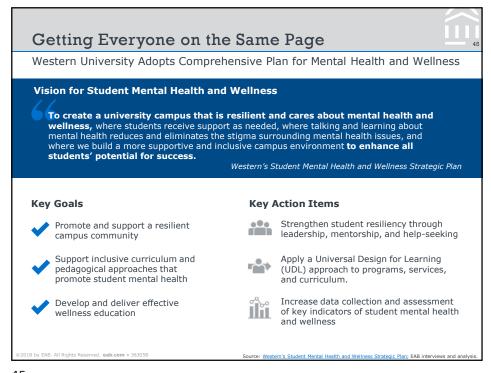


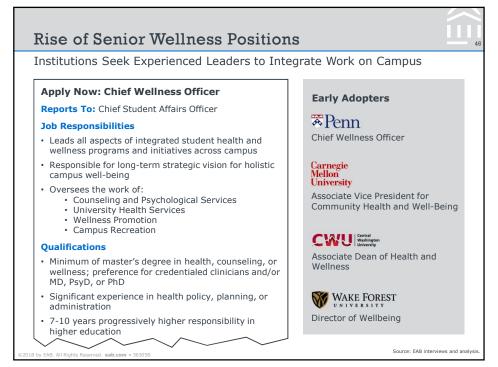


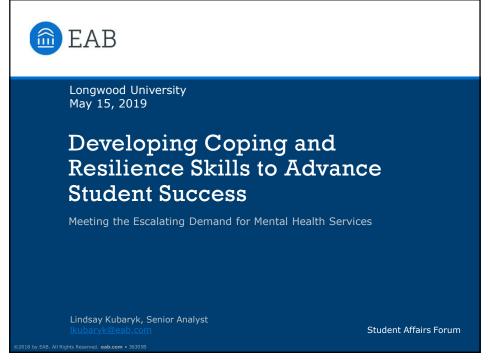












# **Discussion Questions**



- How do you see the lack of coping and resilience skills manifest in the students you teach/advise/work with? What tactics have you used to successfully cultivate well-being in your work with students?
- 2 What resources can be modularized or more effectively communicated to make it easier for faculty and staff to use? What kinds of resources or support do faculty and staff need to integrate resilience and well-being into their work?
- 3 How can we motivate and empower more colleagues to engage in this work? What has been effective in building faculty and staff support? What should we explore to incentivize participation and amplify best practices?
- 4 What well-being practices can you start to incorporate now (e.g., mindfulness exercises, meditation, starting or ending class with sharing a status update or stress management/study tactic)? What do you want more information on?

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