

## Completion gap closed for Black/African American students at Texas Woman's University

*Improved course completion for students taught by ACUE-credentialed faculty*

### Background

In the 2017-2018 academic year, 24 faculty at Texas Woman's University (TWU) earned their ACUE credential. The following findings come from longitudinal analyses of student course data from all students of the 18 faculty who earned their credential and consented to participate in this evaluation. All analyses control for semester, student age, and students' class year.

### Key Findings

- While already high, course completion rates significantly improved for Black/African American students from the 2016-2017 academic year, before faculty started the Course in Effective Teaching Practices, to the 2017-2018 academic year, when faculty earned their credential,  $b = 1.23$ ,  $SE = 0.47$ ,  $OR = 3.40$ , 95% CI [1.36, 8.49],  $p = .009$ .
  - In 2016-2017, 93.7% of Black/African American students completed their courses.
  - In 2017-2018, 98.1% of Black/African American students completed their courses.
- In 2016-2017, the year before faculty started the Course in Effective Teaching Practices, there was a marginally significant gap in course completion between Black/African American students and other students,  $b = -0.45$ ,  $SE = 0.25$ ,  $OR = 0.64$ , 95% CI [0.39, 1.05],  $p = .077$ .
  - In 2016-2017, 93.7% of Black/African American students completed courses compared to 96.2% of other students.
- In 2017-2018, this gap in course completion was eliminated,  $b = 0.65$ ,  $SE = 0.44$ ,  $OR = 1.91$ , 95% CI [0.81, 4.52],  $p = .139$ .
  - In 2017-2018, 98.1% of Black/African American students completed courses compared to 96.6% of other students.

### Methodology

In total, course data were analyzed at the student enrollment level for the 126 course sections from the 2016-2017 academic year and 113 course sections from the 2017-2018 academic year that were taught by faculty who earned their ACUE credential, with a total of 3,741 non-unique student enrollments. TWU provided student-enrollment-level course data for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years for all course sections that were taught by the 18 ACUE-credentialed faculty who consented to participate in the evaluation. TWU also provided demographic data on students and faculty, including 692 Black/African American students (non-unique). For this study, course completion is defined as a student not withdrawing from a course after the university's add/drop date, regardless of their final grade.