

# **First Year Experience Conference, 2014**

**Session 3.4: Valerie Burton and  
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**We Built a  
First Year Success  
Programme,  
and we're still  
looking  
for the students**

<https://vimeo.com/94705188>

fysp2014

PLEASE VIEW THIS VIDEO WHICH EXPLAINS THE  
BACKGROUND TO THE PROGRAM

# The Evaluation

## FYS Evaluation Committee

### Centre for Institutional Analysis and Planning (CIAP)

- Academic performance indicators
- Pre-survey
- Post-survey
- Exit interviews
- Student focus groups
- Faculty and staff focus groups

A matched sample of 48 (1<sup>st</sup> cohort) 56 (2<sup>nd</sup> cohort) students were identified based on key variables: gender, admission type, admission average and origin.

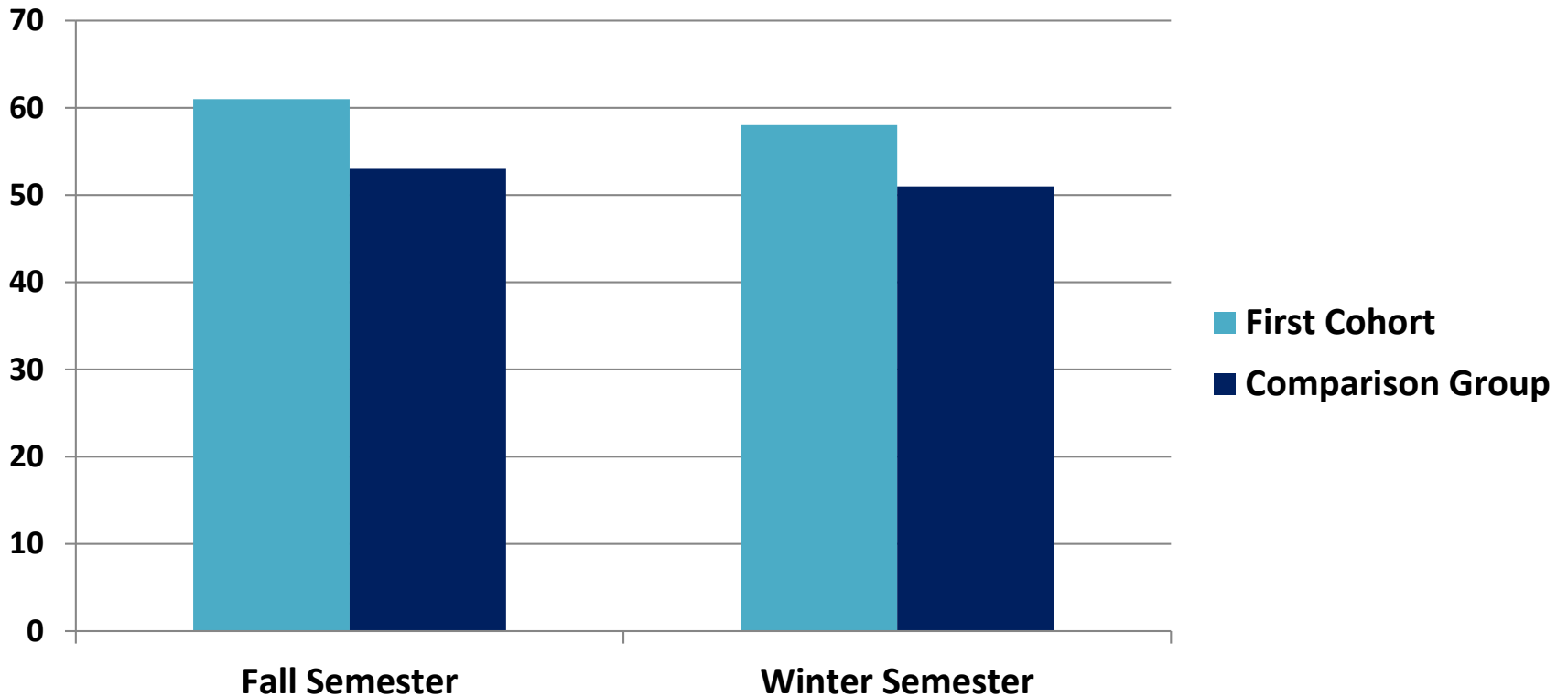
# Did FYS make a difference?

Compared with the matched groups each cohort of FYS students had:

- higher semester aggregate averages;
- higher averages in individual courses;
- better passing rates;
- higher course completion rates;
- higher retention rates.

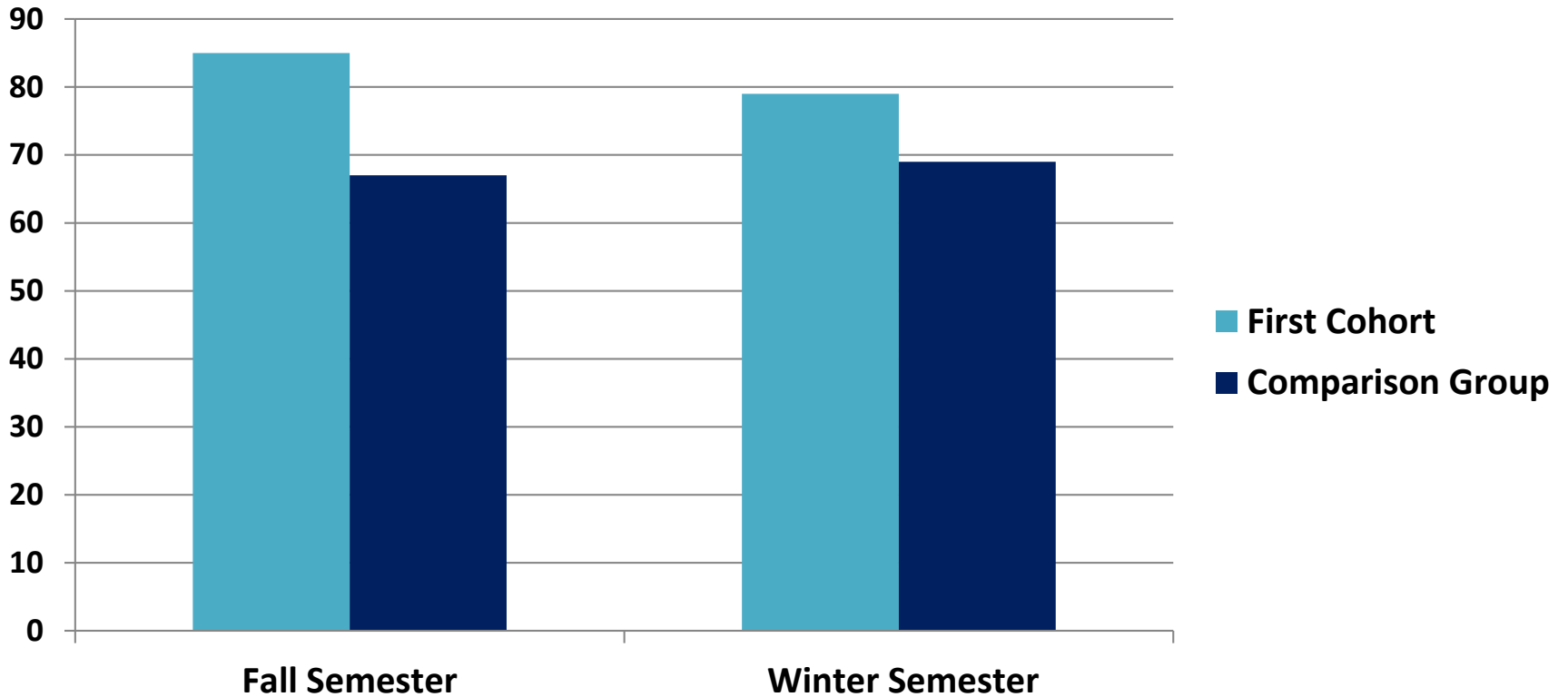
# Academic Progress

## Grade Average by Semester [All Courses]



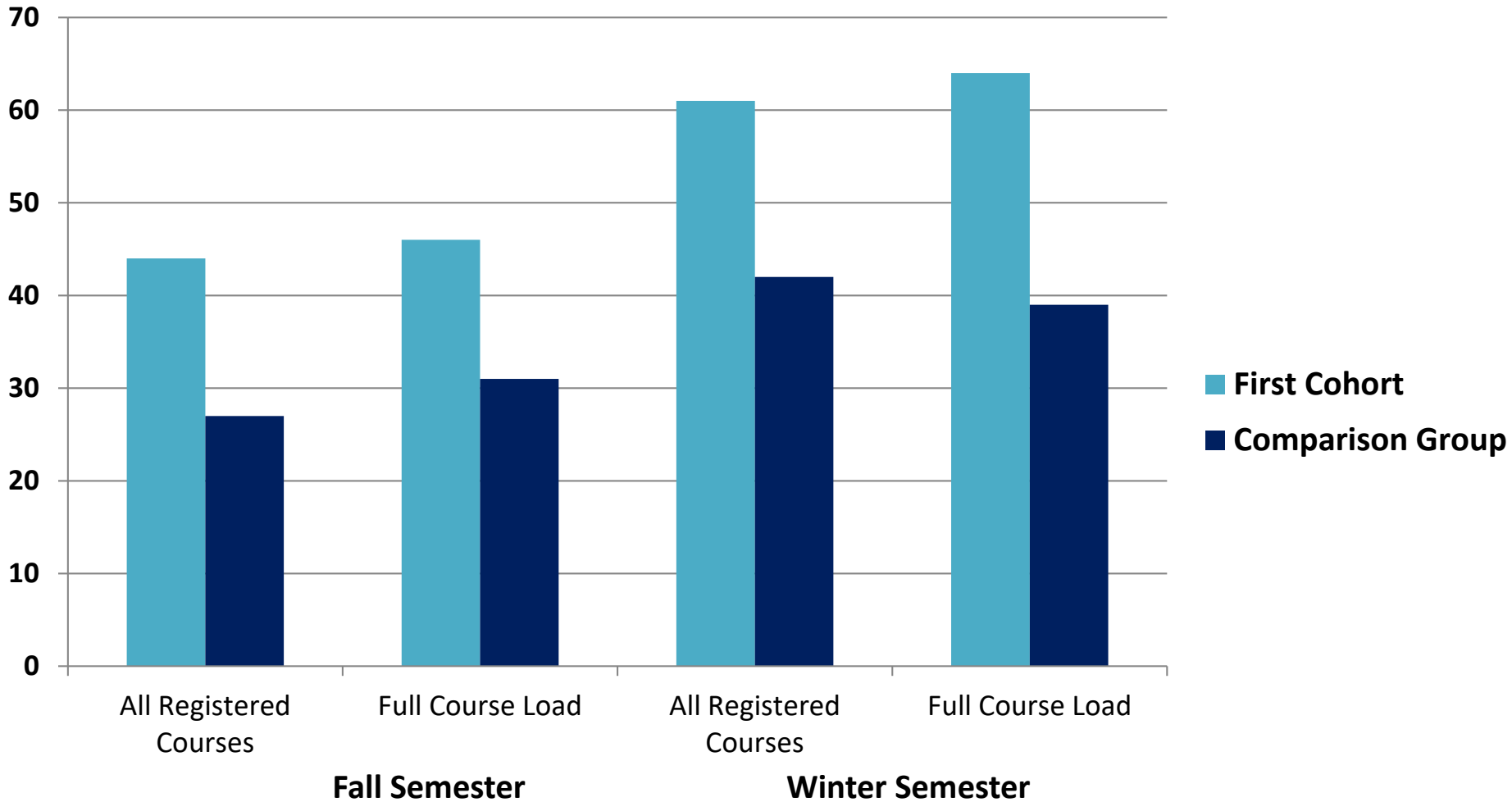
# Academic Progress

## Percentage of Students in Clear Academic Standing



# Academic Progress

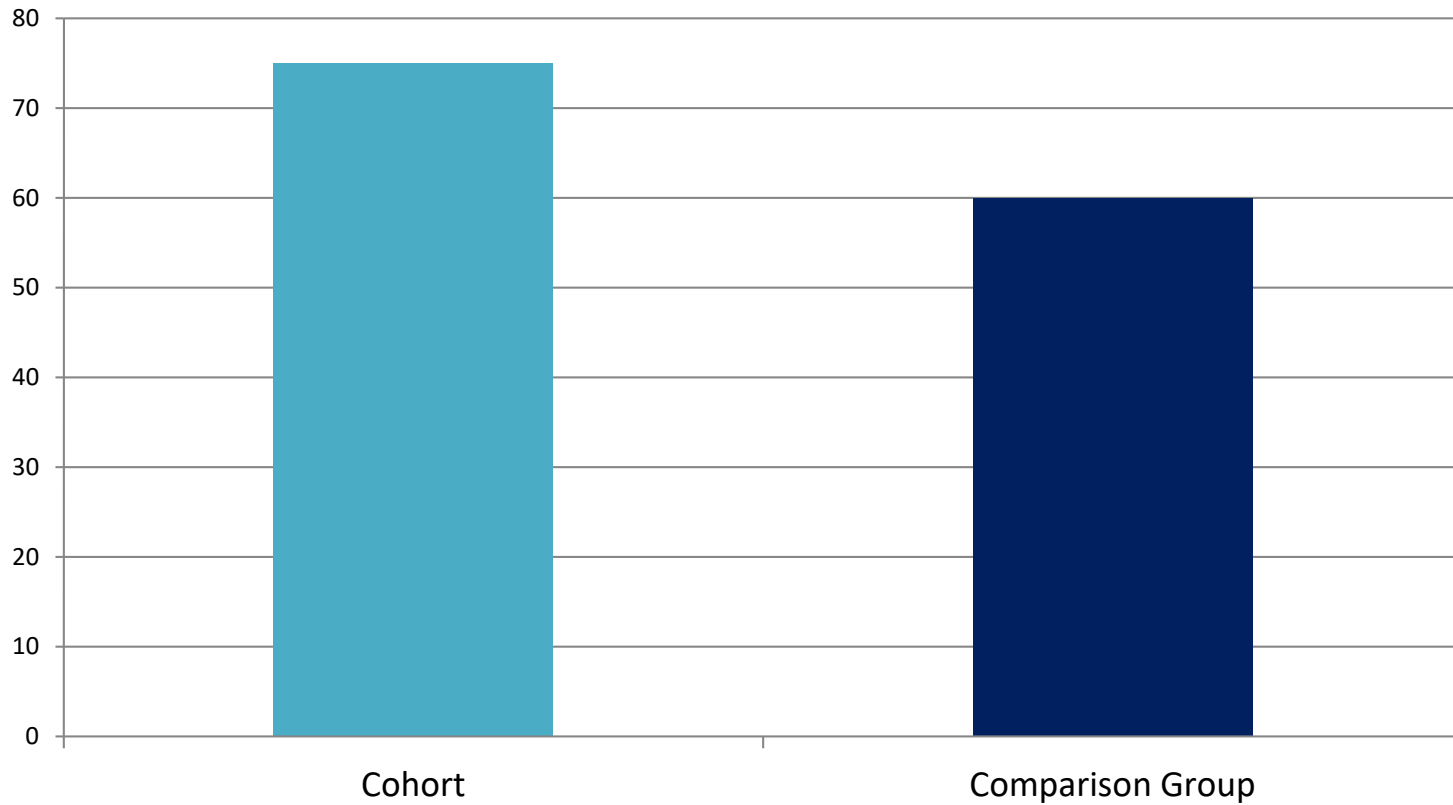
## Course Completion: % of students passing



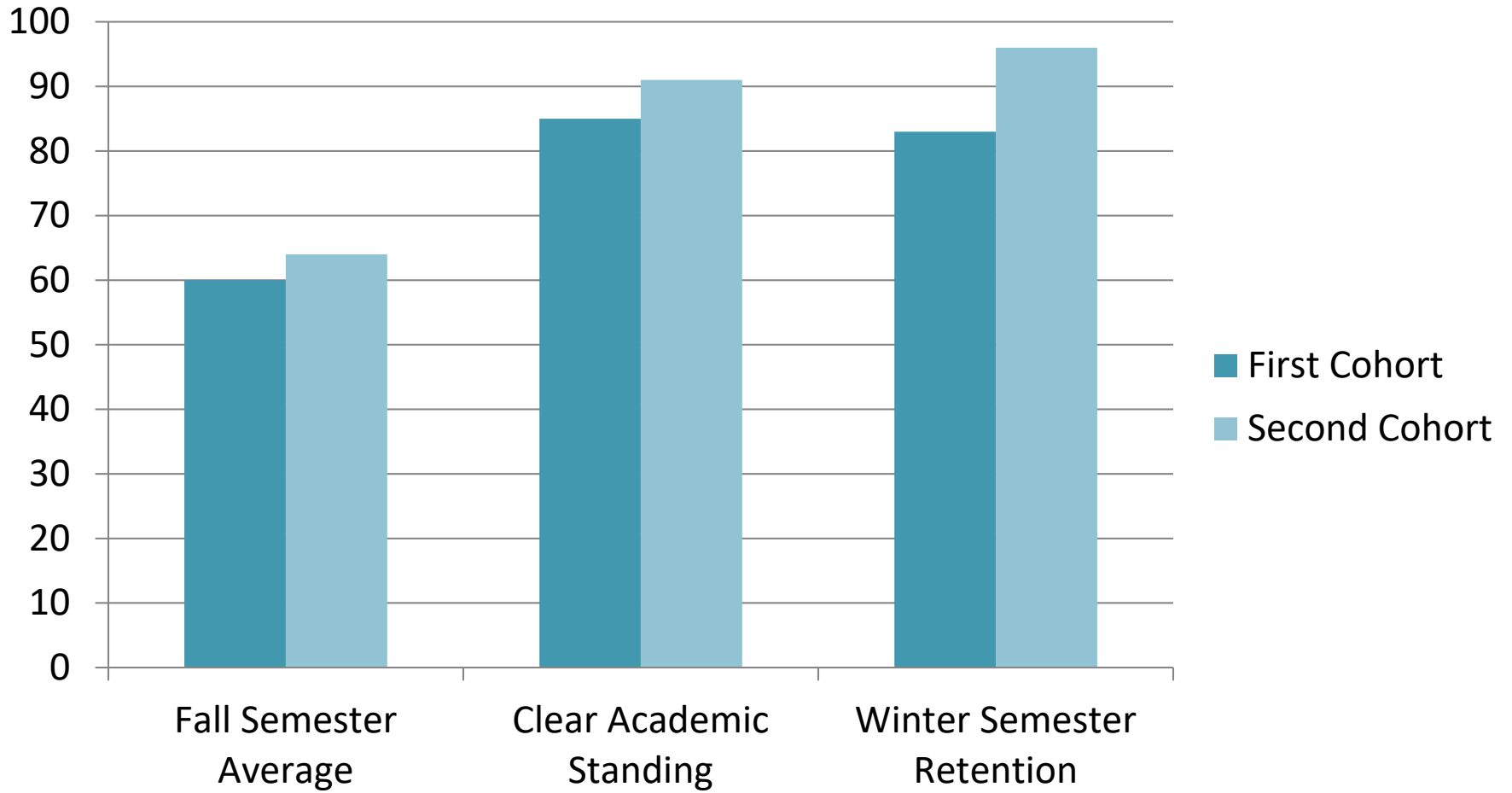


# Persistence into Second Year

## Persistence Fall 2012 to Fall 2013



## First and Second Cohorts Compared



# Academic Progress:

## What happened to the Target Group?

**In Fall 2012, 23% of students with admission averages less than 75% were able to achieve an average of 70% or higher.**

**In the comparison group, no students with admission averages less than 75% were able to achieve this average.**

# Did FYS make a difference?

Many students have indicated that they appreciated being able to identify with a small program in their first semester in University.



# Did FYS make a difference?



## Students attest to:

- **increased personal and academic confidence**
- **greater effectiveness in communication**

# Did FYS make a difference?



Instructors report:

- Increase in students' critical and analytical capabilities;
- greater commitment to team work;
- Increased collegiality and information exchange amongst faculty leading to better pedagogy.

**But, what does  
this mean  
without large  
numbers?**

**Will we  
be able  
to win  
friends  
and  
influence  
people?**

**Tests of the market are readily applied in many areas of the university.**

**What do we have that our colleagues outside FYS and senior administrators will recognize as useful and important?**



# Thank You!

Valerie Burton and Shelly Kawaja  
First Year Success Program

**[www.mun.ca/success](http://www.mun.ca/success)**