

PLAN FOR SESSION

Give a little background on the RISC Survey

Present some key findings from our survey of community colleges across the US

Discuss implications of these findings for student success, degree attainment, and social mobility

Questions



STRANDS OF MY RESEARCH

Research has focused on diversity and equity among faculty and students

Policy work looking at college access and degree attainment

- College application week

- Remediation

- Community college transfer students

- College Advising Corps

Examined survey methods in college student and faculty surveys

International work

BACKGROUND ON THE RISC

WANT TO INCREASE
STUDENT SUCCESS?
ASK STUDENTS

No large scale survey to date has asked students where they are facing challenges to their success and where their colleges are doing a good job supporting them

OUR GOAL WAS SIMPLE: TO HELP COLLEGES
HELP THEIR STUDENTS SUCCEED

Academics design student surveys to gather data for research,
not to provide actionable data to colleges

Needed a new approach to student surveys

Freed \up to use survey experience to:

Design surveys where students are not required to answer every
question

SURVEY OVERVIEW

Challenges to student success

80 unique challenges to student success across five different areas

Student-office interactions

Ask about 5 functional areas using your actual office names

3 dimensions: availability, concern, effectiveness

Student views of the institution

PRESENTING DATA FROM OUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE SURVEY

Community colleges have the incredible capacity to enhance social mobility

Geography

Open enrollment

Developmental education

Relatively low cost

Intentional scheduling

38,880 students from 41 US community colleges

CHALLENGES STUDENTS FACE

OVER 80 UNIQUE
CHALLENGES TO STUDENT
SUCCESS ACROSS FIVE
DIFFERENT AREAS

Finances and financial aid

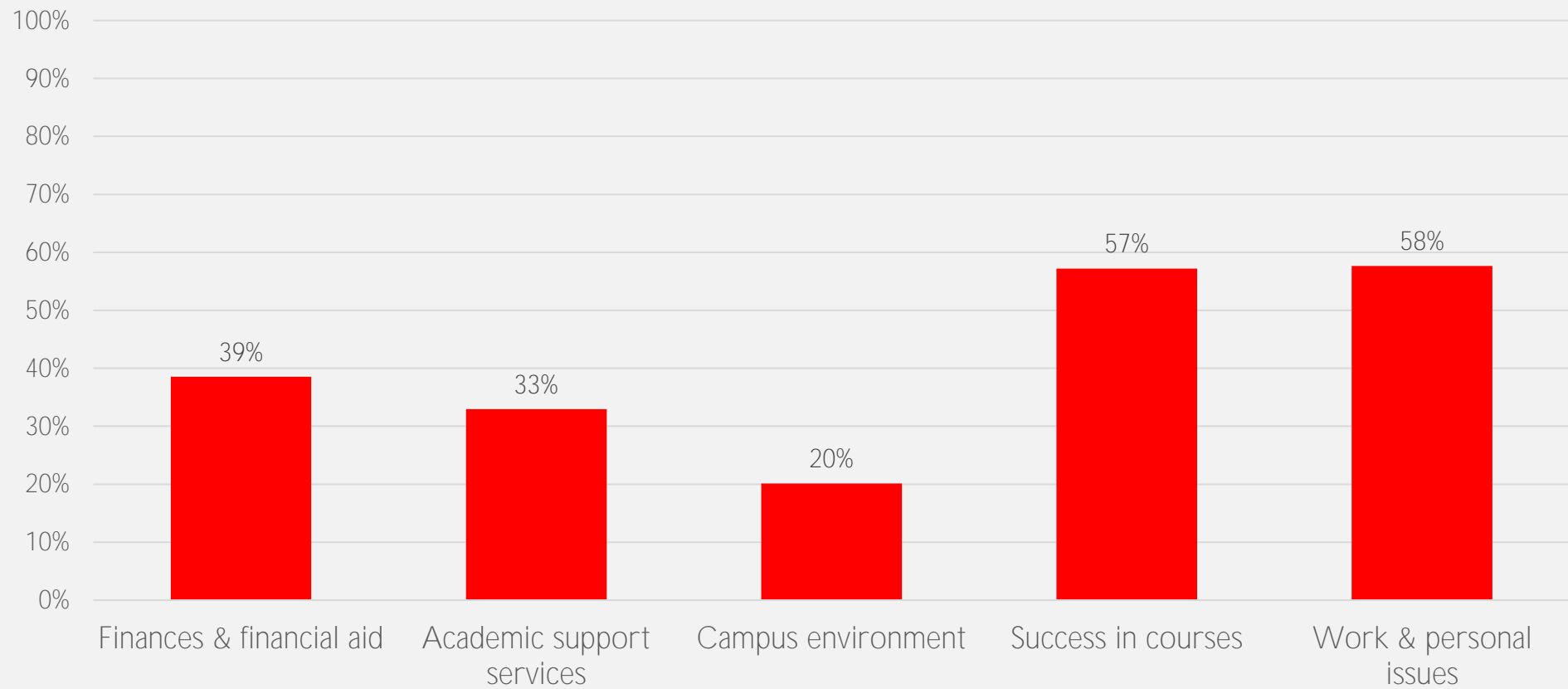
Academic support services

Campus environment

Success in courses

Work and personal life

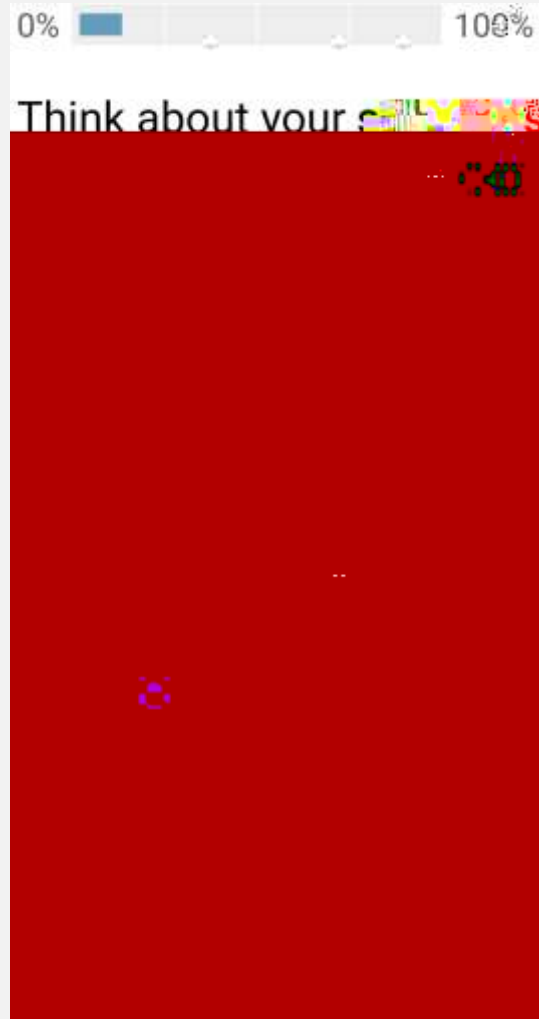
BROAD CHALLENGE AREAS



CHALLENGES BY SELECT
RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUPS



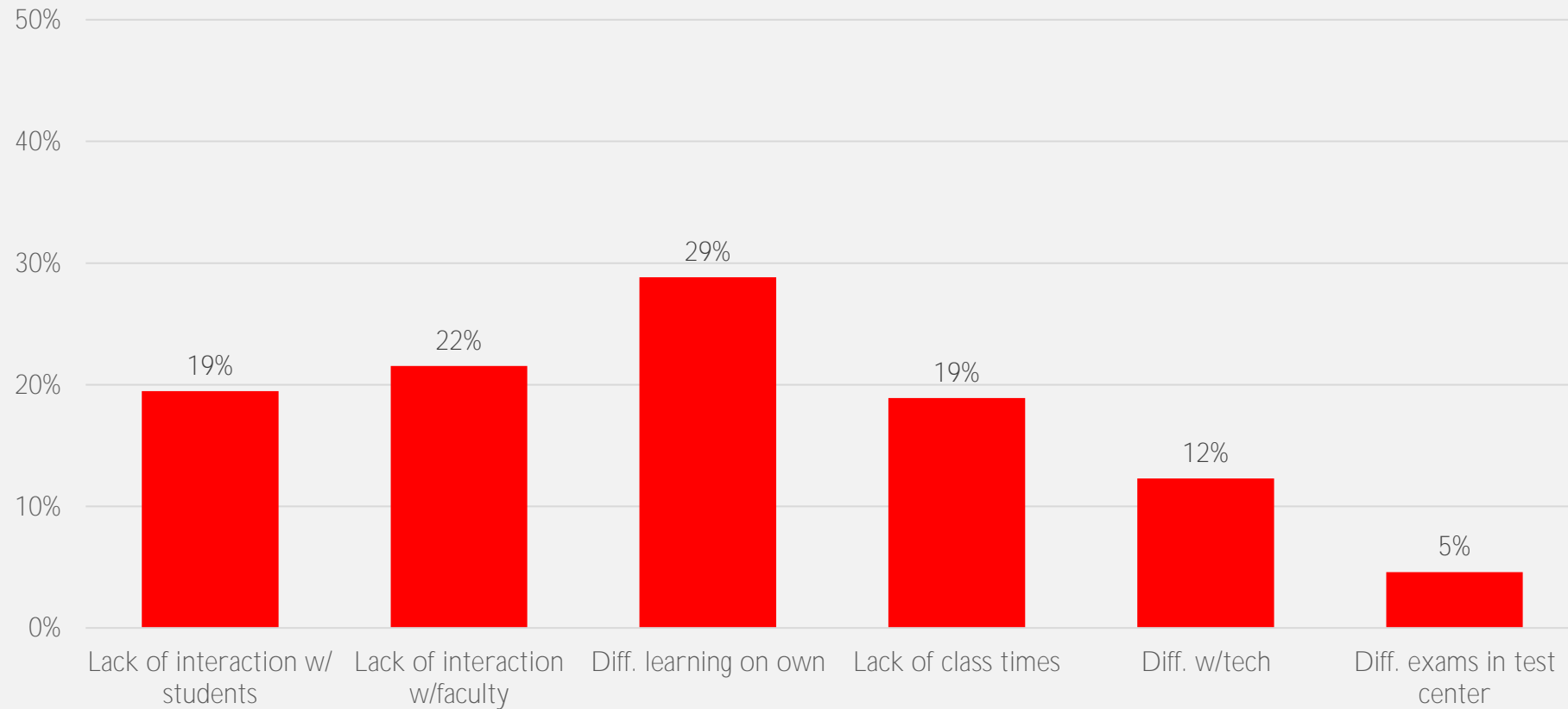
COLLECT DETAILED DATA ON CHALLENGES BY LEVERAGING BRANCHING



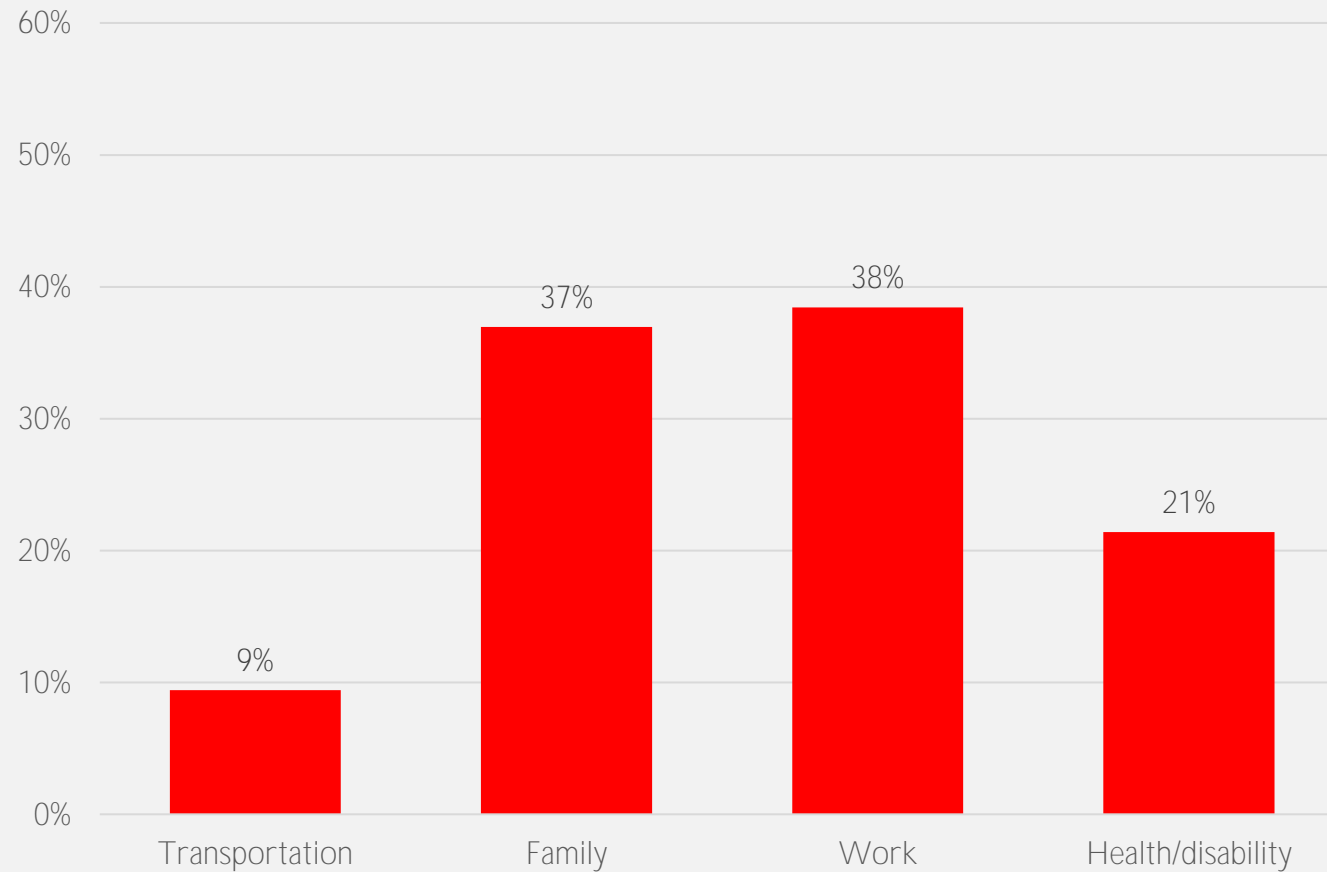
COLLECT DATA ON CHALLENGES



CHALLENGES IN ONLINE LEARNING



WORK AND PERSONAL LIFE CHALLENGES



WORK AND FAMILY CHALLENGE DETAILS

22% indicated that work hours do not give them enough time to study

14% said work interferes with class schedules

18% indicated they had trouble registering for courses (full, not offered when needed not offered in semester needed)

26% indicated difficulty balancing family demands and school

CONCLUSIONS

Community college students experience an array of challenges to their success

Not all students experience the same challenges

If we want to move the needle on student success and enhance social mobility, we need good data and we need to act on these data



THANK YOU!

Questions, comments, observations?

Email: paul@percontor.org or
paul_umbach@ncsu.edu