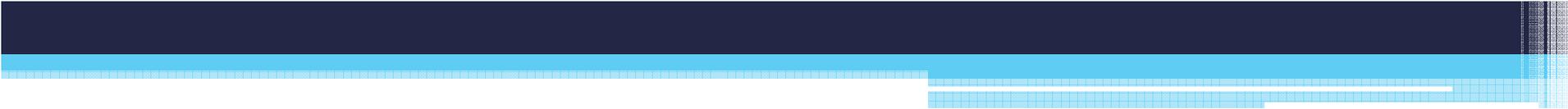


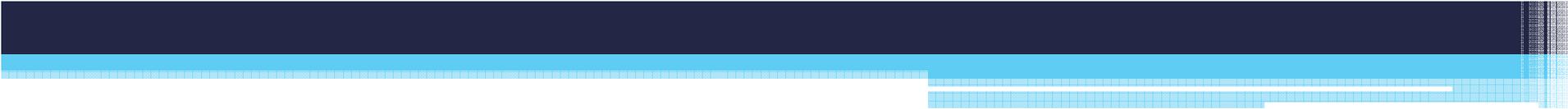
# Two worlds collide: the underprepared student and you

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Wayne State University  
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# Session Overview

- Types/causes of unpreparedness
- Individual and institutional commitments
- Personal Efforts/Self-awareness
- Conclusion



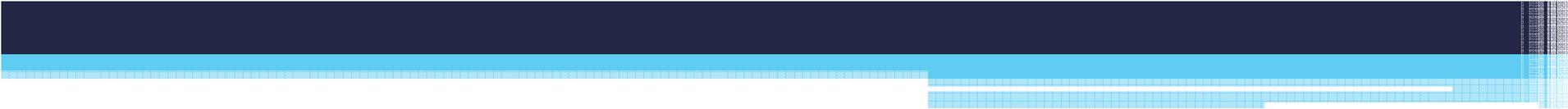
# Varieties of Unpreparedness

- ESL students
- Lack of necessary writing skills
- Low levels of reading comprehension
- Absence of study skills
- Behavioral/non-cognitive deficits
- Returning/non-traditional students
- Veterans

# Causes for Unpreparedness

- Low levels of non-academic support
- Lack of educational resources in K-12
- Returning students absent from academic setting for decades
- International students
- First-generation students





# Veteran Students

- Issues specific to veterans:
  - Academic vs. Military culture
  - Short term memory, concentration difficulties
  - Isolation on campus
  - Alison Lighthall quote

# Common Myths

- ① What assumptions may some educators make about underprepared students?



# Think/Pair/Share Discussion...

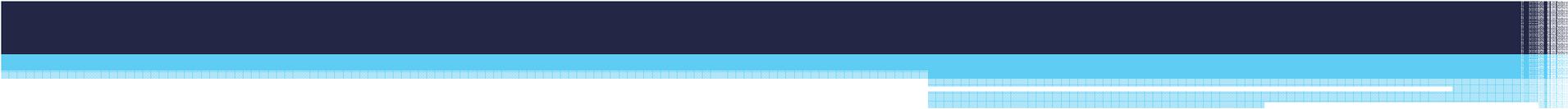


- Think of a situation when you experienced difficulty working with an underprepared student....
  - What was your initial reaction to this student?
  - What made the interaction challenging?
  - How did you ultimately support the student?

# How Important are your efforts?

- Chicago State University surveyed freshman who were not retained and found that 80 percent of them indicated that they had no meaningful connection with any campus office, instructor, staff member or peer leader (McCabe, 2003).
- How do we form these necessary connections?





# Institutional Commitments

- Availability/effectiveness of support services to students
- Relationships between academics and support staff
- Student relationships with peers
- Learning communities/cohorts/FYE classes
- Mentoring programs
- How does your institution measure up in these areas?

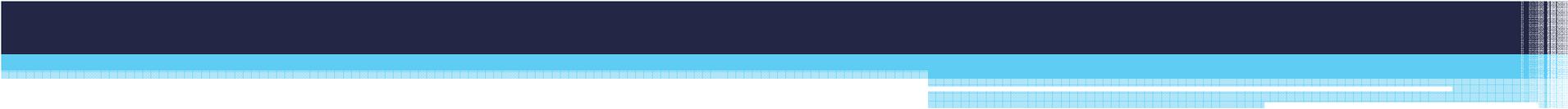
# Personal Efforts

Stay in touch with yourself and be aware of how you're reacting to each student.

Areas often in need of improvement:

- Patience
- Empathy
- Eye contact
- Focusing on student
- Passing judgment
- Prioritizing
- Negative thinking





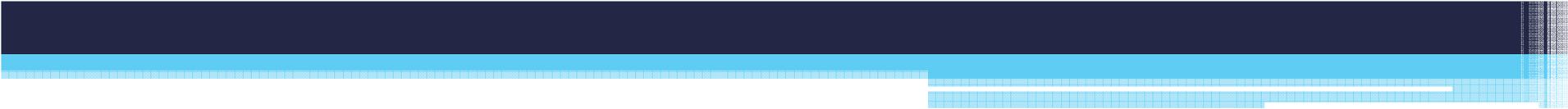
# Negativity/Job Burn-out

- Negativity is highly contagious in the office.  
What are unsupportive statements you may hear from fellow coworkers?

# Self-Awareness Activity

## Turning Over a New Leaf





## Discussion continued...

Think back to the beginning of the session when you paired off and discussed difficulty working with an underprepared student. With your new-found self-awareness, reconnect with your partner(s) and discuss how you would now handle the situation differently if given the opportunity.

# The End-Comments/Questions?



# References

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- ◎ McCabe, Robert. (2003). *Yes We Can! A community college guide for developing America's Underprepared*. Phoenix, AZ, League for Innovation in the Community College.