

# Developing information literacy and retention awareness

Universidad del Sagrado Corazón and St. Mary's University

Walmart MSI Student Success Collaborative



## Information literacy: developing competencies

### ACRL Information Literacy Standards:

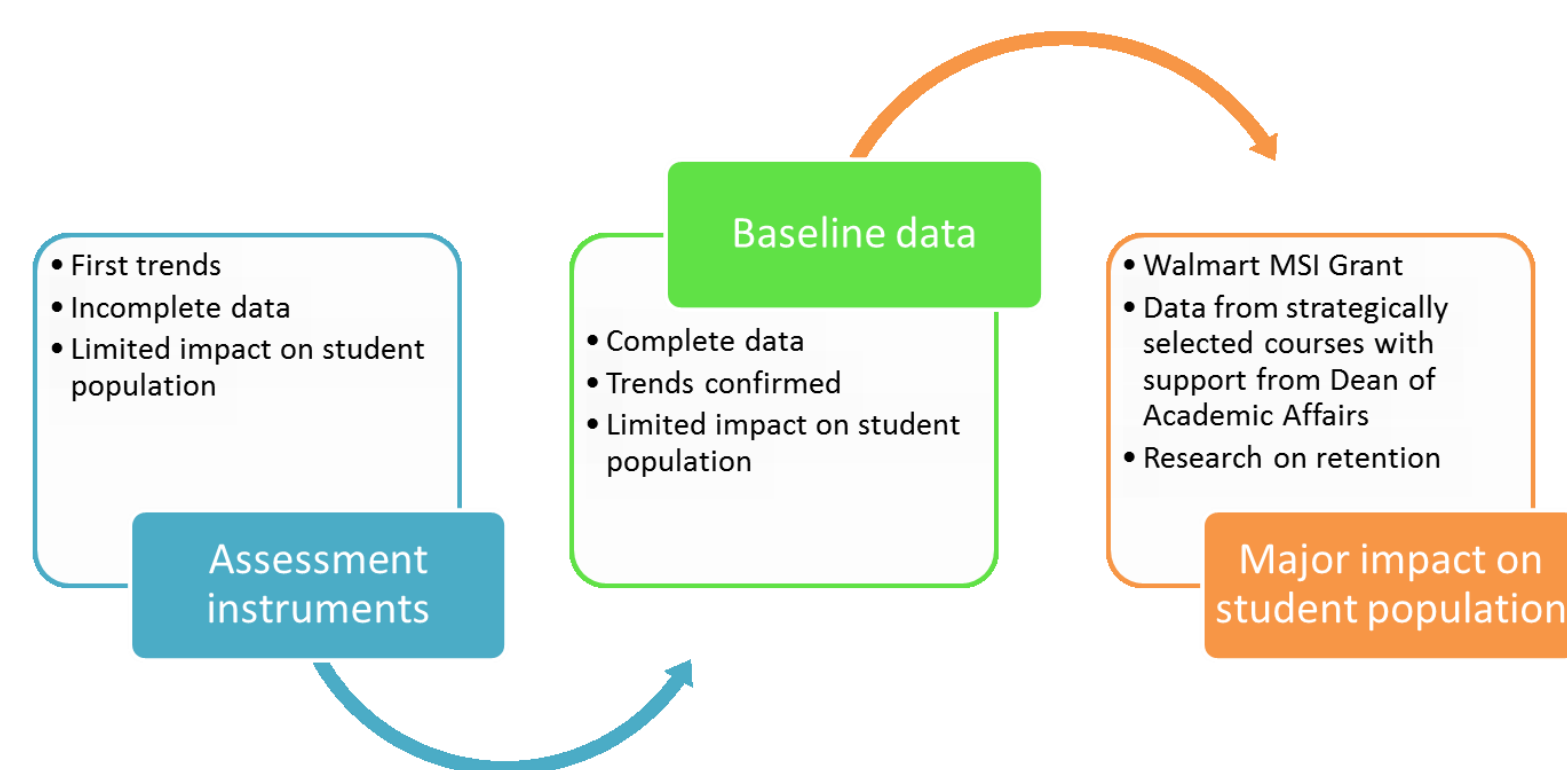
- Determine the extent of information needed
- Access the needed information effectively and efficiently
- Evaluate information critically and incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base
- Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, and use it ethically and legally.

Faculty has designed information literacy activities and learning objects, using web 2.0 technologies, for 23 courses

### Impacted courses since beginning of MSI Project

1. 10 general education courses	1. 200 students
2. 9 major courses	2. 180 students
3. 2 capstone courses	3. 40 students
4. 2 graduate courses	4. 20 students

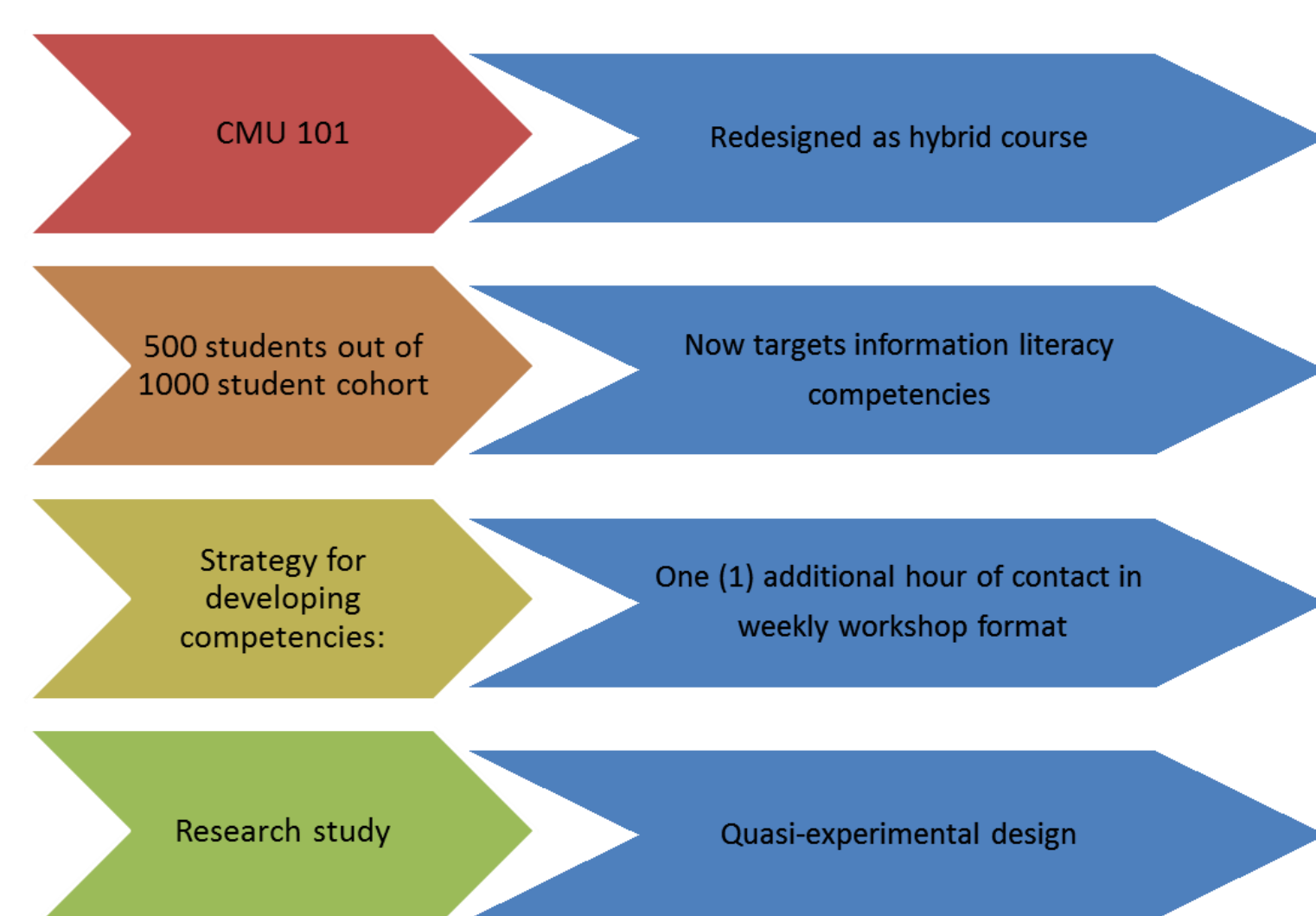
23 faculty, 440 already impacted students from the 6,000 total enrolled students.



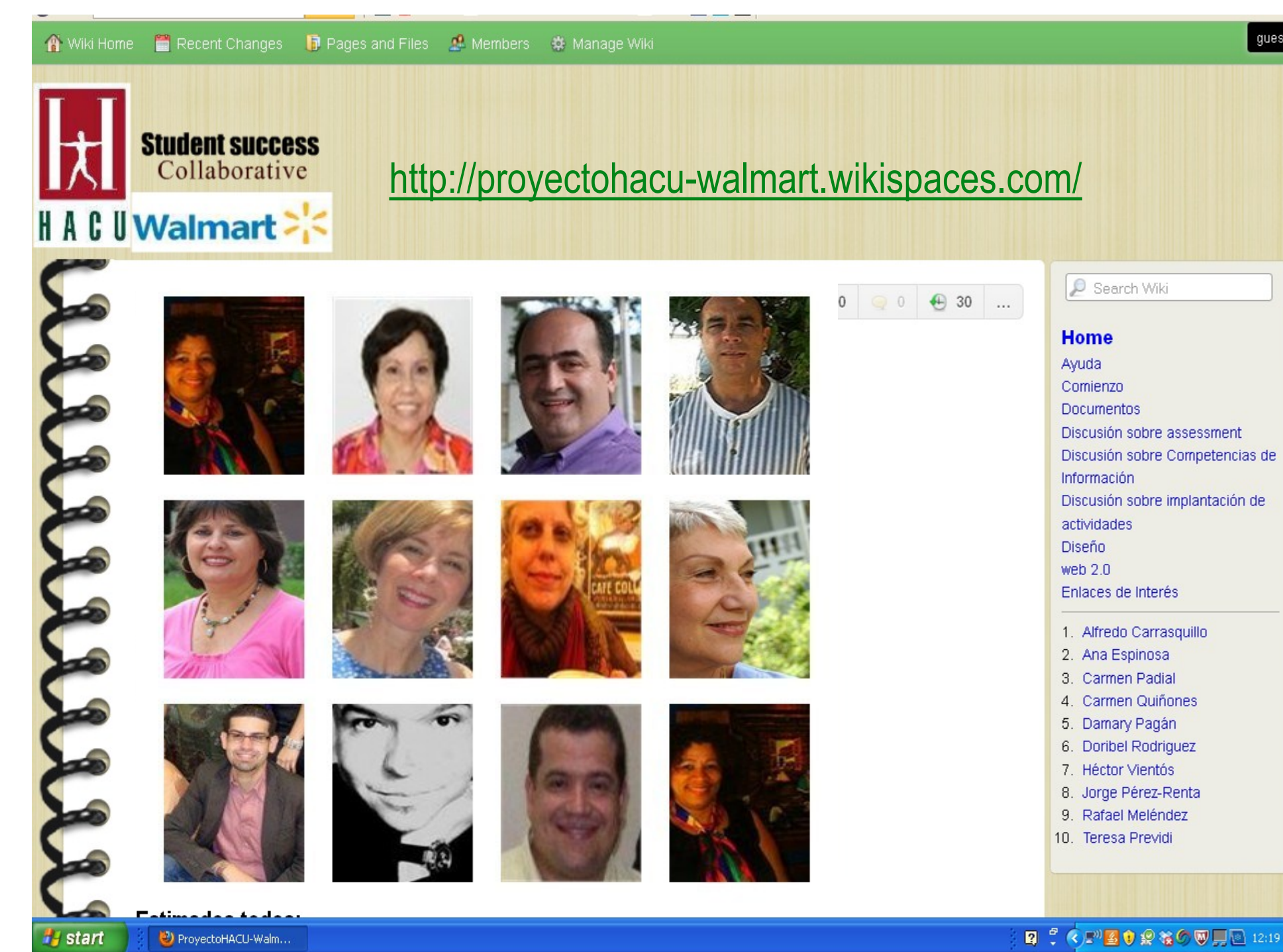
The MSI project has enabled us to progress from a limited impact on student population and insufficient assessment data, to a projected impact on all students and reliable data from institutionally-approved research.

## Information literacy and retention: projected research

An interesting offshoot of the work done by the faculty, this project by two of the participant professors aims at improving retention in CMU 101, *Intro to Communication Media*, a key course that has become a bottleneck, despite being a first-year course. Right now, of the nearly 1000 students of the 2012 cohort, 500 have to take CMU 101.



## Information literacy: faculty learning community in a wiki



### Faculty Development



53 faculty benefited from training and 25 benefited from faculty presentations of their work.

A series of training sessions were given on **Web 2.0 technology, instructional design, reading comprehension, learning disabilities and accommodations and learning games**. Participating faculty also gave a presentation of their work to the St. Mary's team.



## Retention awareness: collaboration with St. Mary's



A team from Sagrado Corazón (USC) visited St. Mary's. The second visit focused on the summer orientation. For the first time in USC, members from different federally funded projects traveled and worked together.

## Results of collaboration: a new retention plan



Collaboration between the Deans of Students from USC and St. Mary's, Dr. Pedro Fraile and Dr. Tim Bessler, resulted in a new retention plan and a new summer orientation. Dr. Fraile presented the finished plan during **St. Mary's second visit to our campus**.

## Retention initiatives: results of our collaboration



After the first year of the project, and as a result of St. Mary's mentoring, we were ready to hold a joint summer orientation for the first time. The summer orientation took place on August 13-14, 2012.

## Results overview

The MSI Project enabled us to:

- stimulate the development of competencies, specifically information literacy competencies.
- begin a research project that we expect will provide evidence to link our information literacy initiative with retention in a key course.
- train faculty, counselors, tutors, and administrative personnel on learning difficulties and accommodations to help retain this population.
- revive USC's retention plan and retention committee.
- involve faculty participating in the MSI in a learning community
- begin to collaborate with other units and federally-funded projects for the first-year experience.
- strengthen the first year experience, specifically the first year seminar and a above all the summer orientation.
- give key personnel the opportunity to interact with colleagues abroad and study innovative strategies.

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