

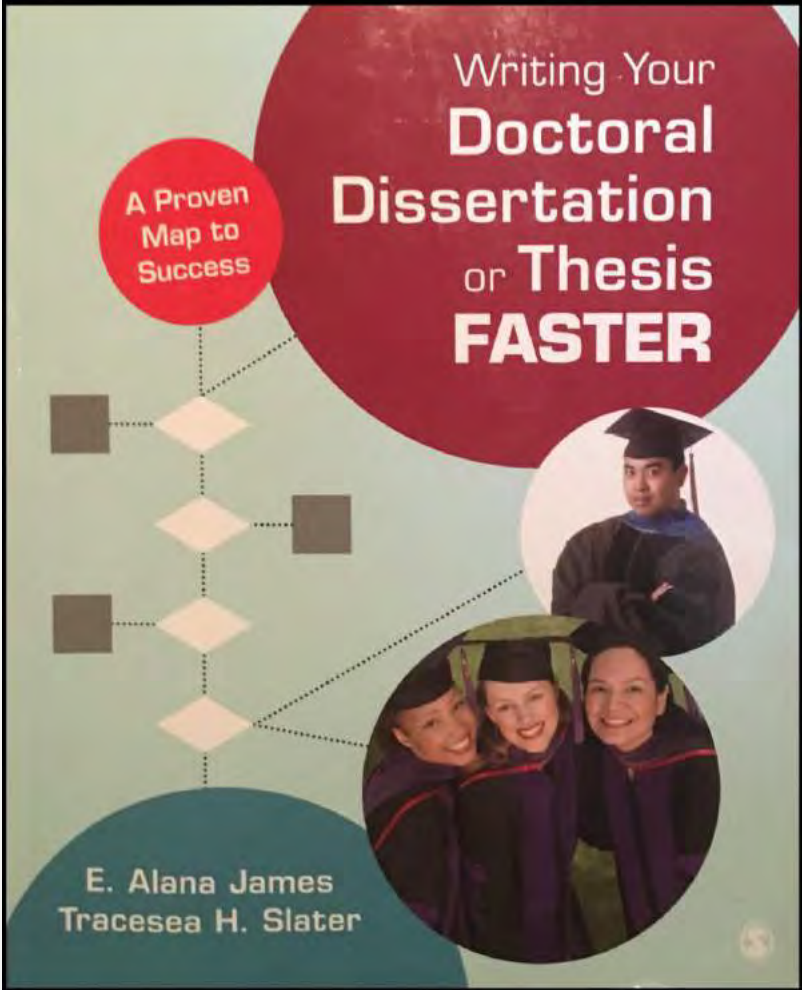
HELPING GRADUATE SCHOOLS BUILD FOR THIS CENTURY



“The problem that keeps me up at night is how to offer equitable services to a diverse population of graduate students (non English speakers, older, working, non-traditional) and HOW TO DO THAT AT SCALE.

-M.B. Vice Provost Texas A&M-





Writing Your
**Doctoral
Dissertation**
or Thesis
FASTER

A Proven
Map to
Success

E. Alana James
Tracesea H. Slater

Housekeeping...

- Please Sign In, clipboard is traveling around
- Leave a business card in the basket for a raffle that is being supported by Sage Publishing.
- They have donated 12 copies of my book on Finishing Your Dissertation or Thesis Faster: A Proven Roadmap for Success.

Do You Agree??

FACT: Many graduate schools are seeing decreased enrollment?

FACT: While it is widely reported that Graduate Programs have a 50% completion rate on average, that probably is the mean?

FACT: Many Graduate Schools do not have the data to prove or disprove program level completion?

HYPOTHESIS: Targeted professional development has a role to play in reversing these facts





Our Mission:

To participate and share in the evolution of Graduate Schools

Our Vision:

Technology working in tandem with Graduate Schools to build a safety net for students thereby increasing retention and completion

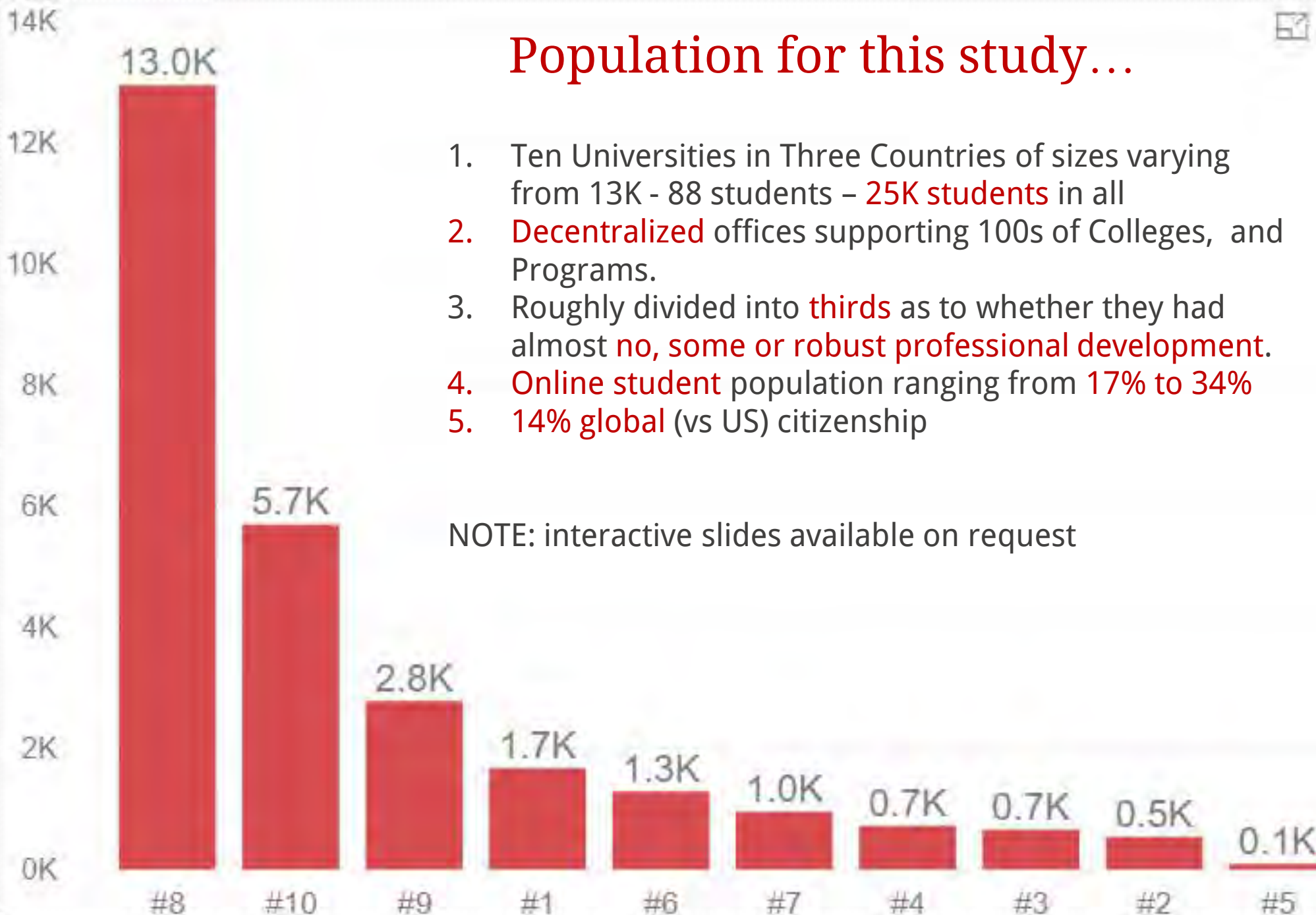
This Research Asks:

1. What evidence do we have from the Deans' experience?
2. What evidence do we have of retention and completion?

Population for this study...

1. Ten Universities in Three Countries of sizes varying from 13K - 88 students – **25K students** in all
2. **Decentralized** offices supporting 100s of Colleges, and Programs.
3. Roughly divided into **thirds** as to whether they had almost **no, some or robust professional development.**
4. **Online student** population ranging from **17% to 34%**
5. **14% global** (vs US) citizenship

NOTE: interactive slides available on request



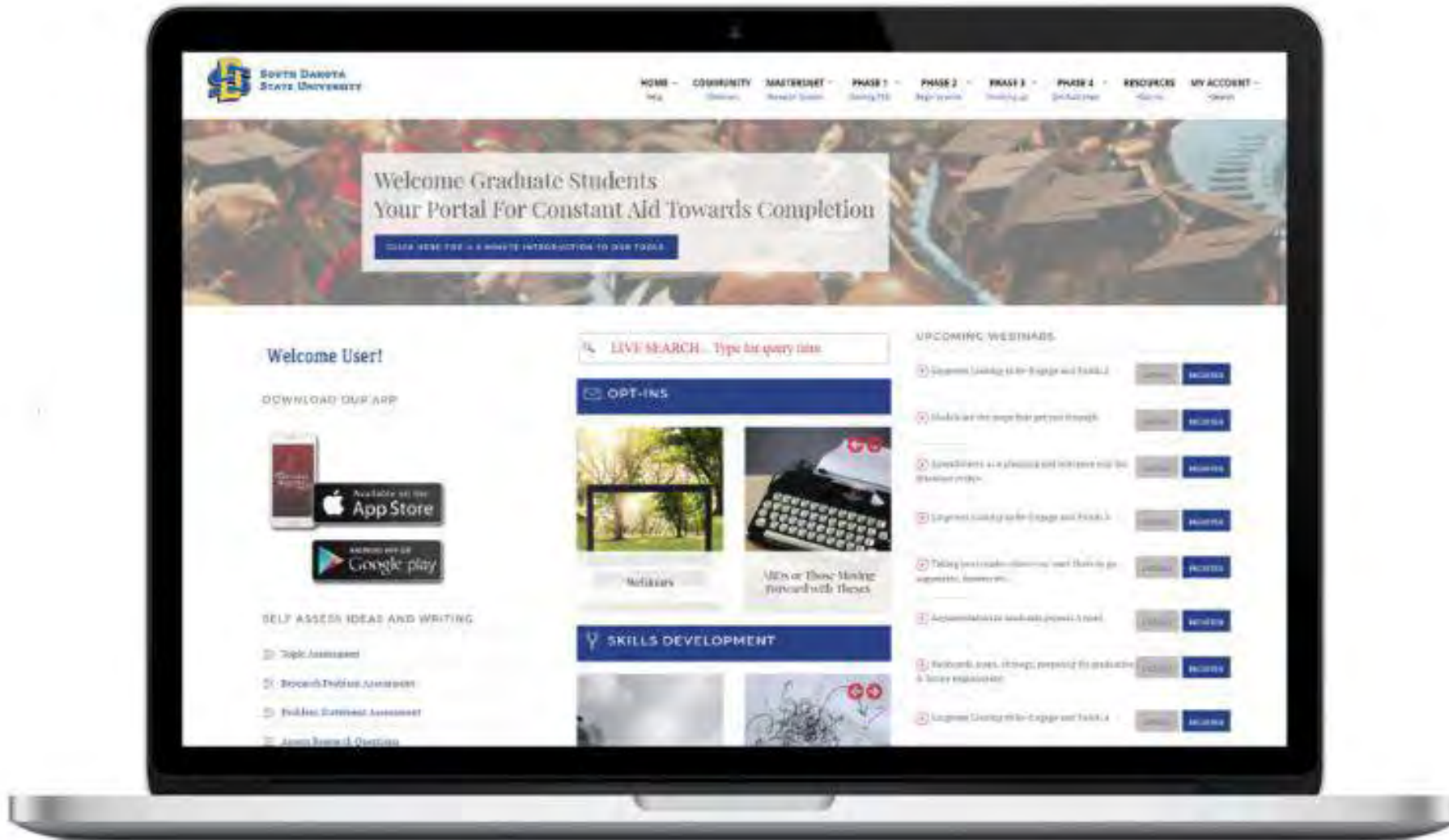
Select for Known Risk Factors

@ a Distance?
Online | On Campus
 Select All
 (Blank)
 N
 Y

Citizenship
 Select All
 (Blank)
 Global
 US Citizen

Partnership with DoctoralNet Ltd...

Personalized Portal and App combination roughly priced equivalent to two graduate tuitions. Working with Deans to develop new content that suits their framework.



These Deans give their Masters & PhD or Professional



A complex and redundant, pedagogically driven, suite of digital content and tools

Ongoing Research Employs an Eclectic Mix of Literature & Methodology



Socialization Theory
PhD Completion
Organizational Development
Computer Science

Digital Learning
Teaching and Learning
Marketing Research

Mixed Qualitative &
Quantitative Data Sources
Action Research

Narrative Inquiry
Storytelling Research



1

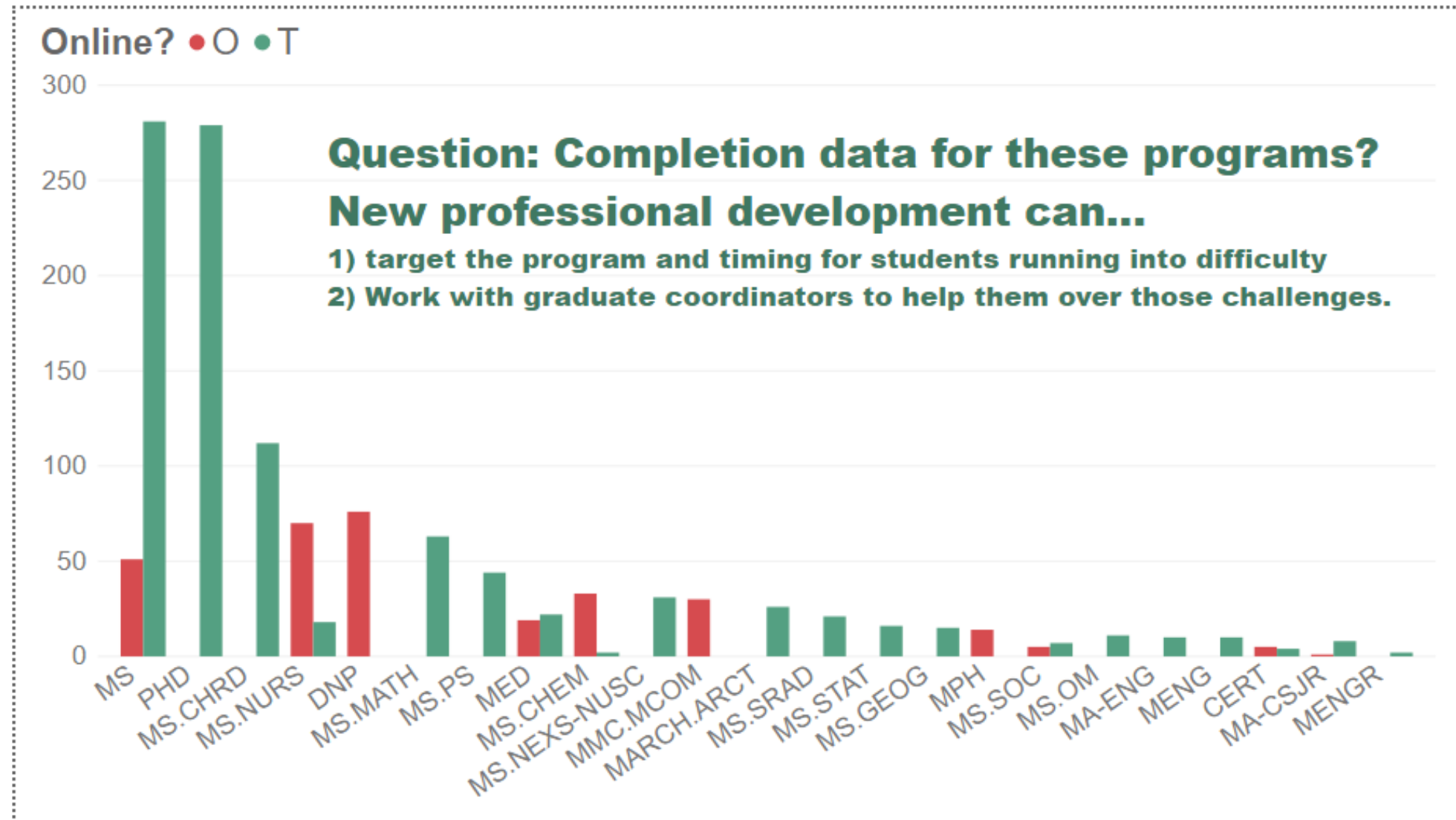
The Deans' Stories: University Implementation and Student Adoption



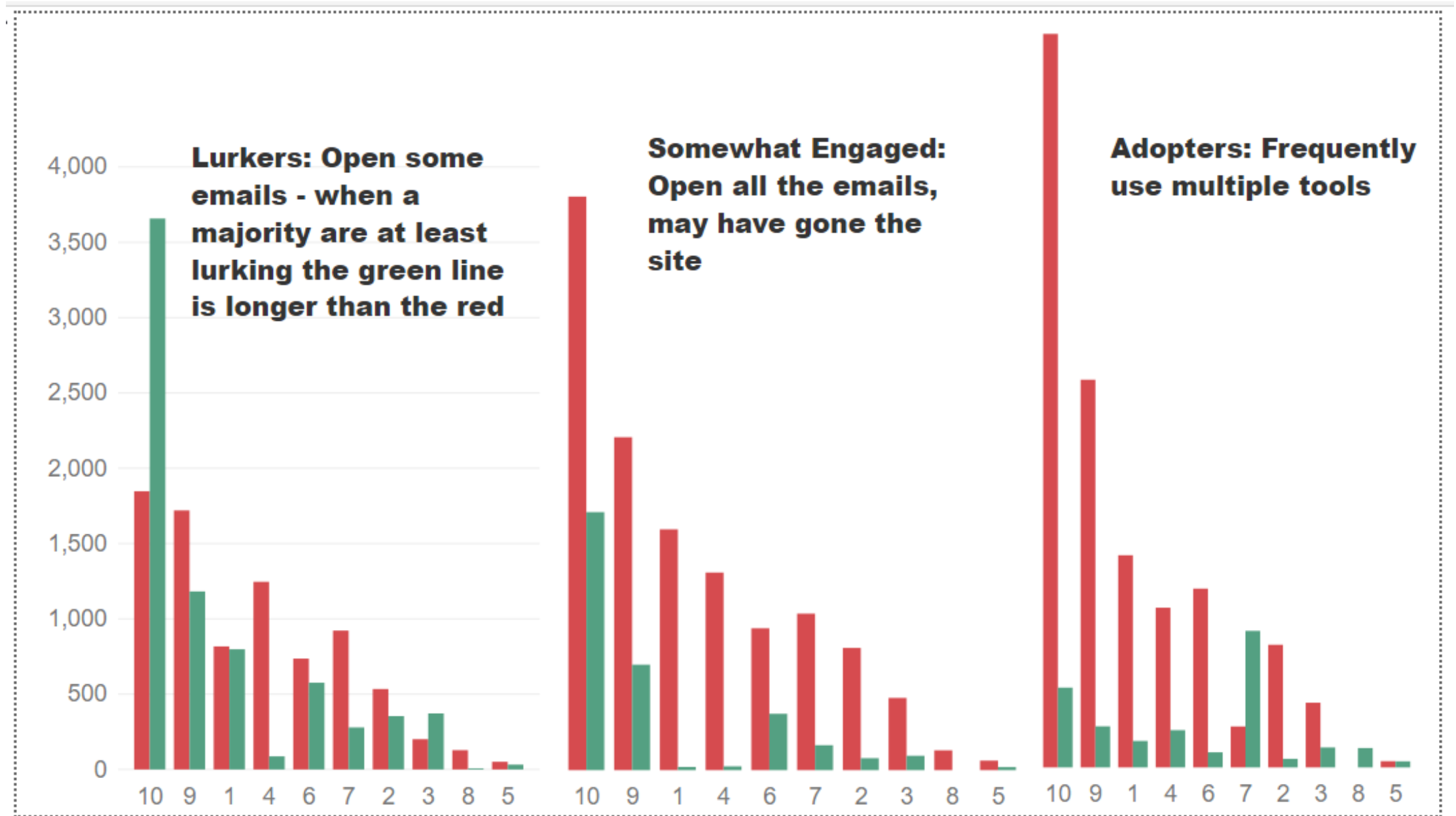
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DoctoralNet



#1-Getting the Data Just Right = Targeted Implementation



#2- Student Adoption Can Be Tracked from Interest to Use



#3-Even Without On Campus Support, Students Adopt



**In 4th Year
22% adoption**



**In 3rd Year
21% Adoption**

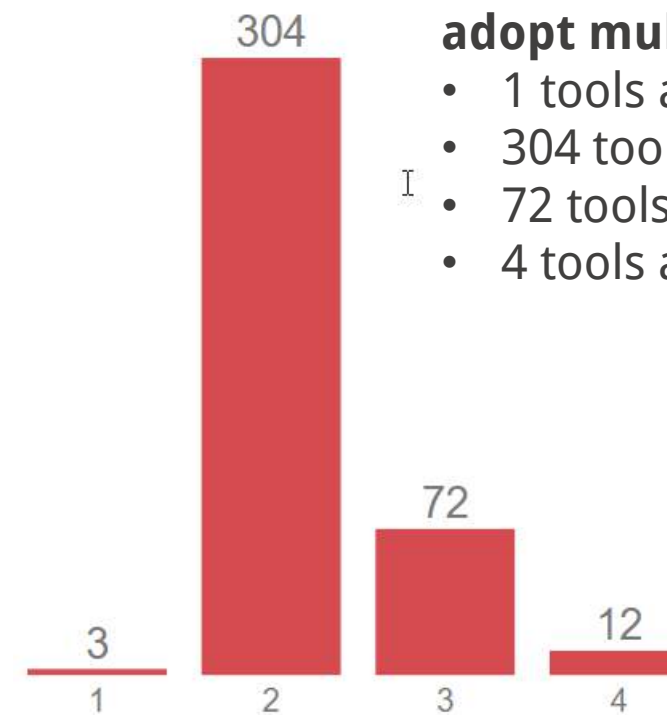
#4- Students Adopt Quickly In Universities with Previously Robust Professional

#8- **325 hours** of webinar watching before the students even have full access to the site or the tools



#1- **Students immediately adopt multiple tools:**

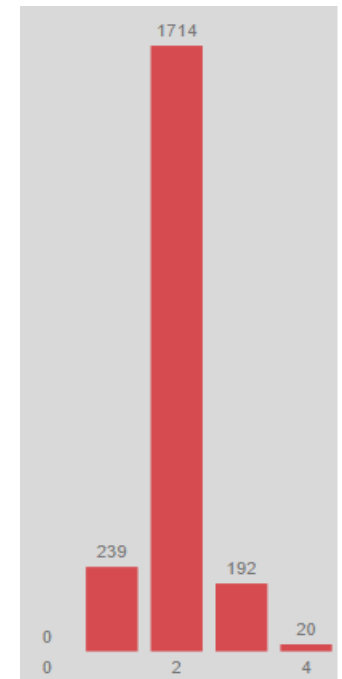
- 1 tools adopted by 3
- 304 tools adopted by 152
- 72 tools adopted by 24
- 4 tools adopted by 3



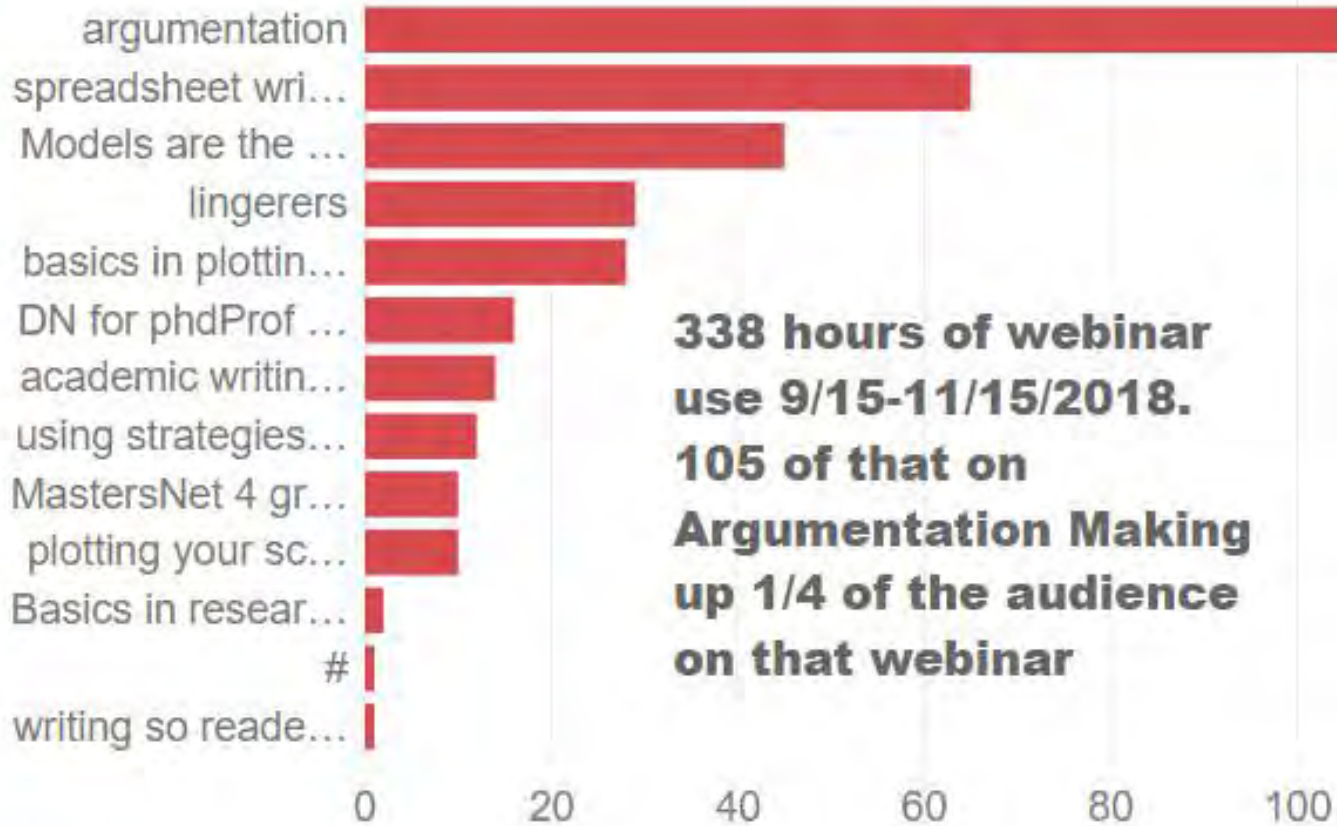
#5- Faculty Like The Tools & Help Design New Ones



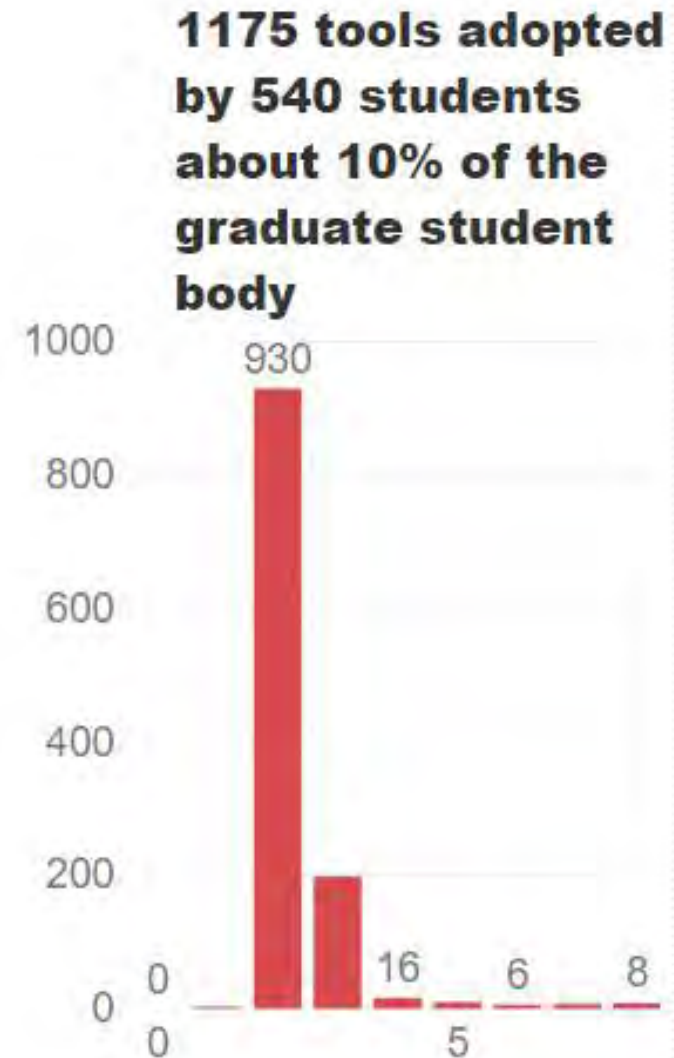
Faculty applauded the Dean during the MastersNet Training when it became clear these adoption data were due to her boldly opting in students for academic writing emails.



#6 – It makes a huge difference if you introduce the tools to students live and online as part of orientation

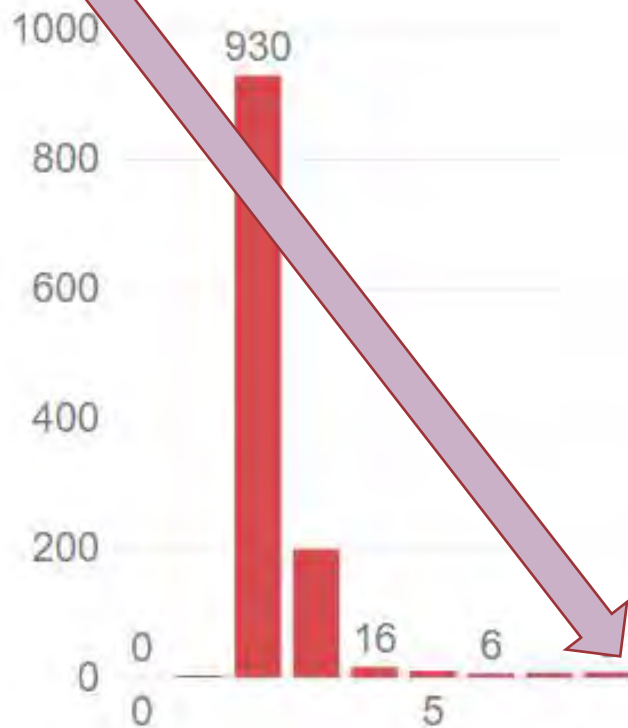
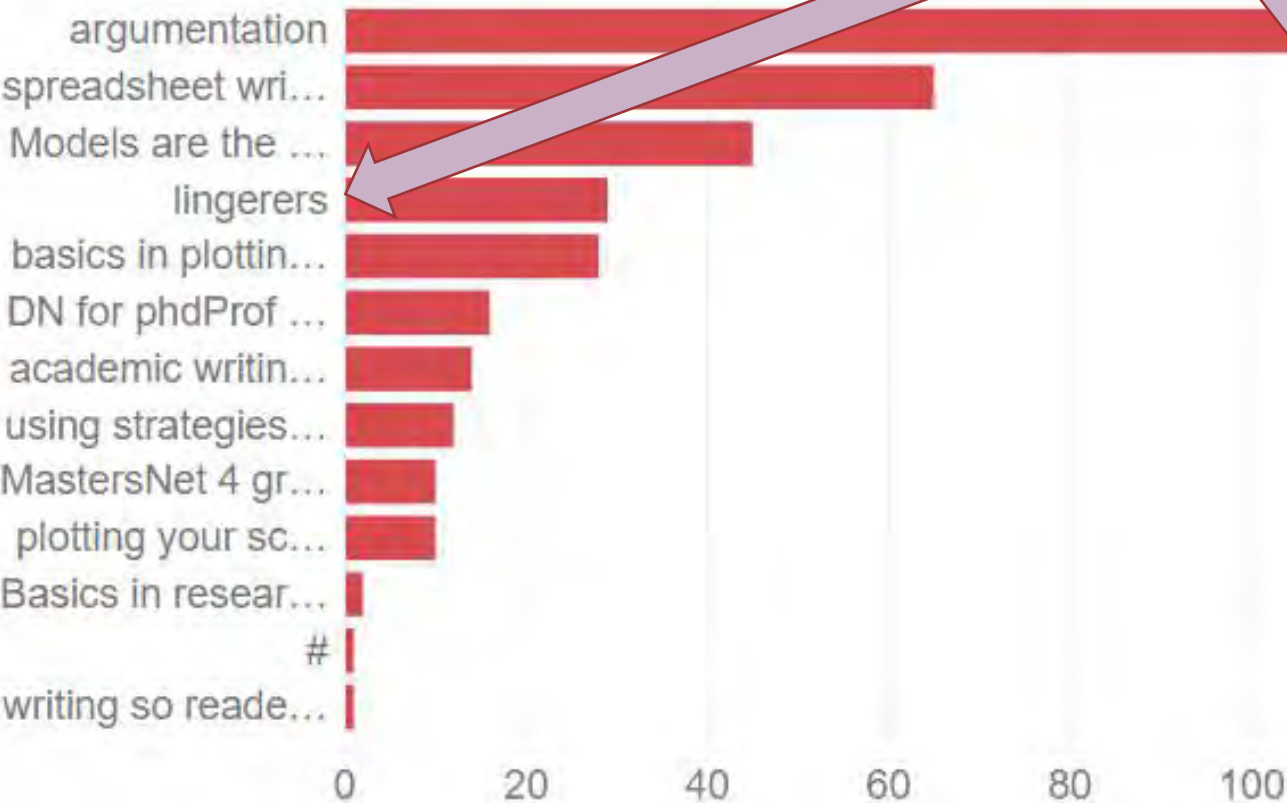


338 hours of webinar use 9/15-11/15/2018. 105 of that on Argumentation Making up 1/4 of the audience on that webinar



University #10 New Director introduced DoctoralNet as part of orientation

#6 – It makes a huge difference if you introduce the tools to students live and online as part of orientation



University #10 New-Director introduced DoctoralNet as part of orientation

Brief Recap:

- #1-Getting the Data Just Right = Useful for Targeted Work on Completion
- #2- Adoption Can Be Tracked from Interest to Use
- #3-Even Without On Campus Support, Students Adopt the Tools
- #4- Students Adopt Quickly In Universities with Robust Professional Development
- #5- Faculty Like It & Help Us Design New Tools
- #6- It makes a huge difference if you introduce the PD to students live and online as part of orientation

2

Retention &
Completion?

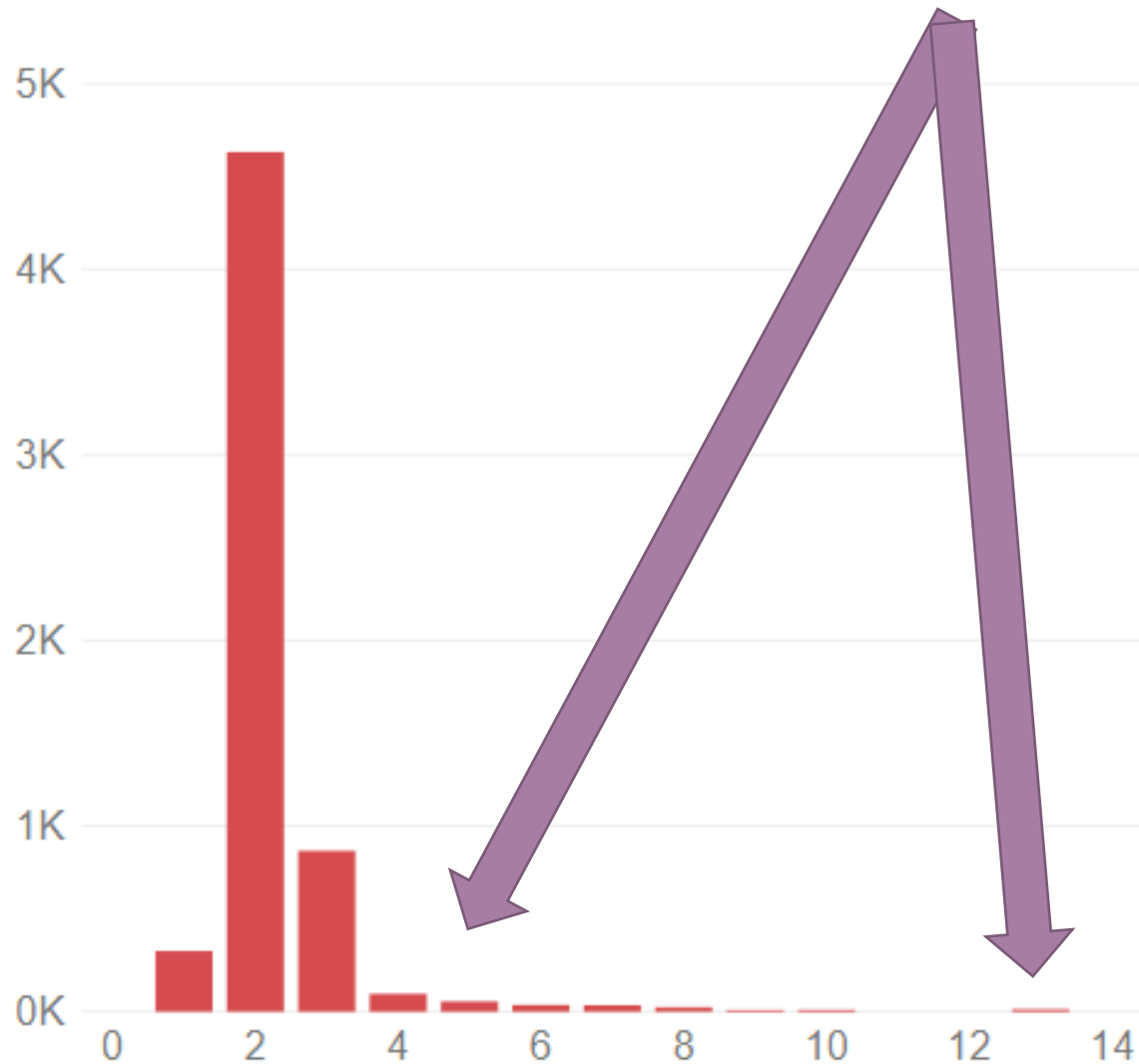
How Do We
Measure
Outcomes?



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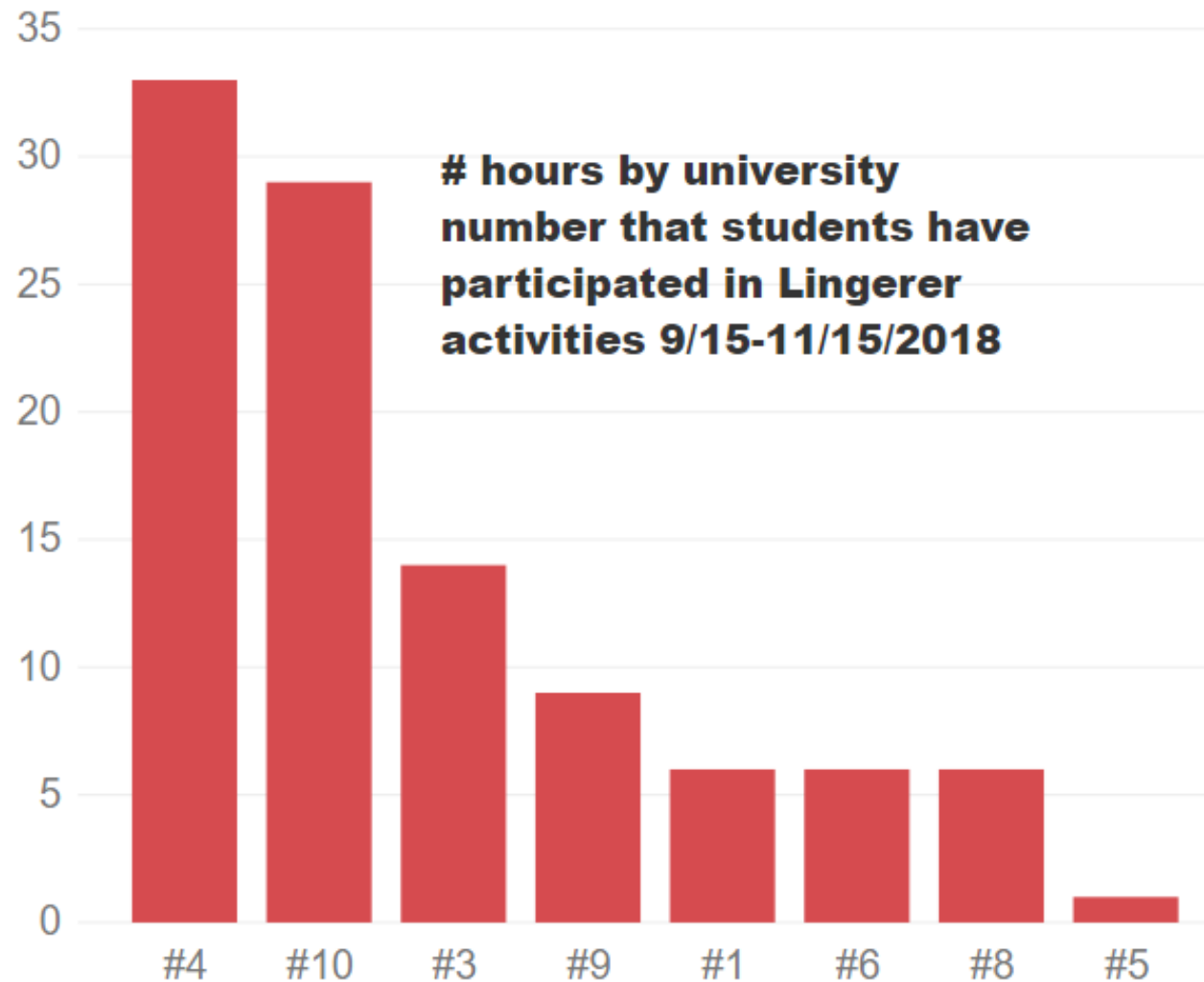
#1- The Non Traditional Student Tells Us They Need It – Important to Track Multiple Adoptions



"I will gladly accept any information you provide. I am just getting back to school after 20+ years, and so out of the loop, especially with writing papers and the different styles. I guess I didn't really realize the amount of writing I would have to do, but I'm ready for a career change and know the hard work will pay off in the end.

Thank you! "

#2- There are Always Students Who Fall Into Gaps and They are Looking for Ways to Get Out



*"I will be participating in the lingerers group tomorrow. I have been writing my MA thesis for months now and **I am stuck and cannot seem to find the will to go on writing.**"*

Thank you in advance for your help."

#3- Those Students Complete When the Gaps are Filled or They Have a Safety Net - Testimonials

*"Dear Alana,
I had my defense on Monday, and was awarded a PhD! Only a few minor changes are required! So I am delighted!
But I wouldn't have managed to push through without your help, advice, your book and nor without everyone involved in the accelerator experience.
Reviewing everybody's snippets of their dissertation was so beneficial! **As the weeks came and passed, I realized two things. 1: I can do this! 2: I am not alone!** Though my research was very different to my peers, we had very similar questions and difficulties!
So thank you!
Best wishes"*

Dr Harriet Cole, DCU
Biology Major





3

In Closing ...

Bias,
Decisions,
and
Opportunities



E. Alana James, ED.D.
DoctoralNet





#1 Our Bias is Obvious

We are dedicating our lives to the vision that with a technology partner like ours, every university will soon be able to do much better for their failing or lingering Graduate student.

As researchers, we write for peer review (copies of 2 chapters and a journal article from 2018 available on request)

We think these data point in the right direction and therefore...

#2 – Decisions... What is the Cost of Doing Nothing? Vs The Cost of Moving Ahead?

1. Cost of Doing Nothing... Revenue lost when students disengage, recruitment costs go up to replace those numbers, and time lost doing what has always been done to the same results
2. For some these are intriguing enough to make a move
3. For those, there are two options to save money – the cost is roughly two graduate tuitions a year
 1. Option 1: For universities with funds – We'll half that for a two year pilot that invoices in the spring
 2. Option 2: For those that need to build collegial support – give us a test population for the spring/summer with the intent of starting with everyone in the fall if things go well.

#3 – There are Two More Opportunities...

- a) Educational Leadership (recruiting for Advisory Council)
- b) Research (have design for next phase)

Recap for Discussion:

- #1- Getting the Data Just Right = Useful for Targeted Work on Completion
- #2- Adoption Can Be Tracked from Interest to Use
- #3- Even Without On Campus Support, Students Adopt the Tools Anyway
- #4- Students Adopt Quickly In Universities with Robust Professional Development
- #5- Faculty Like It & Help Us Design New Tools
- #6- It makes a huge difference if you introduce the PD to students live and online as part of orientation

About Retention and Completion...

- #1- The Non Traditional Student Tells Us They Need It – Important to Track Multiple Adoptions
- #2- Every Group of Students Have Some Who Fall Into Gaps and They are Looking for Ways to Get Out
- #3- Those Students Complete When They Have a Safety Net - Testimonials

Sharing in the Evolution of Graduate School



These slides will also be made available in an interactive production of the data on the web after December 7th, 2018. For that access, just write or call...

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