

# Imagine Success: Faculty and staff examine obstacles on Assessment Day

May 28, 2015

Human connections, even the unexpected ones, matter. Just ask Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer Francis Battisti.

After graduating from SUNY Broome, Battisti found himself alone at SUNY Albany. He knew no one and had little in the way of social circle, at least in the Albany area. And to add to his burdens, he was ill.

But in the depths of loneliness, he had an unexpected visitor. A cleaning woman who saw him go to the campus clinic stopped by to bring him soup, as well as the human connection he sorely needed.

That caring custodian may have made the difference between getting a degree and returning home without one, Battisti told faculty and staff at [Assessment Day](#), held May 22.

“I was that first generation student. Those are a lot of the students you all work with every day,” he said.

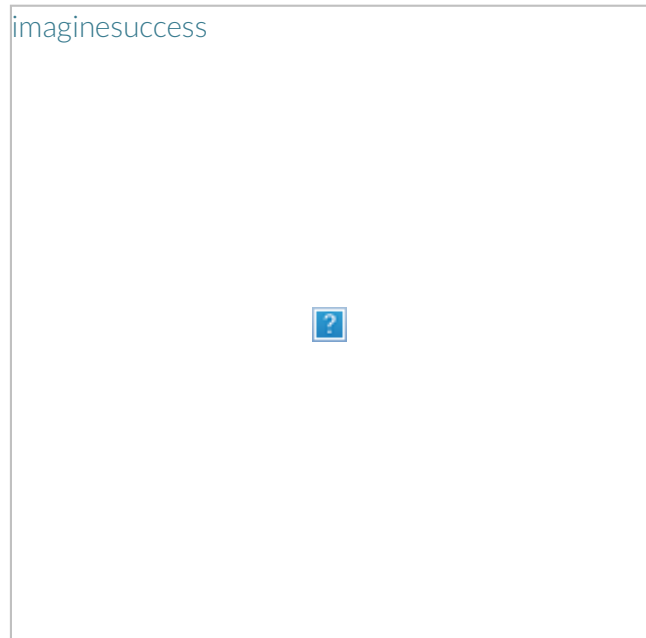
Led by Associate Professor Andrew Haggerty, attendees met in small groups, discussing how to improve the college experience. Topics discussed included how to enrich the learning and teaching landscape; how to engage the campus and the community in meaningful partnerships that foster excellence; refining proactive academic efforts and students services that help students achieve life goals; and how to invest in SUNY Broome as a learning community.

Such examination is essential when it comes to removing obstacles for student success, Battisti noted.

One current initiative shaping the campus is [Imagine Success](#), an 18-month initiative to increase graduation rates by 5 percent. It’s a lofty goal, he acknowledged.

Planning is already underway for an [Imagine Success student event on Sept. 10](#), which will include presentations, academic success service providers and opportunities for students to develop connections at SUNY Broome. The goal is to provide students that essential human connection early on.

“Some people just get lost in that first week,” Battisti said.



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