Advanced technology for retaining students

RetainMe is a web-based early-warning and student retention system developed by and for faculty at Indiana University. RetainMe (aka IU-RETAIN), has been in use since the fall of 2007. In the hands of dedicated faculty, advisors, staff and administrators, RetainMe has been able to quickly identify at-risk students and allow the campus to improve its retention.

RetainMe is a research based system based on the Retainology model. The system is available to academic institutions through the Retainology Consortium.

- Simple and intuitive interfaces allow users to work with the system with minimal or no training.
- Predictive Analytical Modeling allows campus administrators to identify potentially at-risk students at the beginning of the semester, and put in place intervention programs before the semester begins.
- Scalable design allows the university to grow without having to upgrade the software.
- Automatic and informative email notifications to all stakeholders will remind each group to continue and sustain their retention efforts throughout the semester.
- Multiple layers of security allow for greater confidence and management of risk.
- Early identification of at-risk students: early enough to make a difference!
- Actionable and timely reports allow stakeholders to take corrective actions during the semester.

Additional information about joining the Retainology consortium and acquiring the RetainME software may be obtained by contacting the director of Retainology Consortium, Dr. Hossein Hakimzadeh (hhakimza@iusb.edu) or by contacting:

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In the United States, national statistics point to an alarming six-year graduation rate of approximately 50%. The problem is even more severe for regional, community, and two-year colleges. The federal governments, state legislators, university trustees, and parents, all want to see more accountability from their public and private university administrators.

As a result, many colleges and universities are urgently seeking solutions and best practices to identify and help their academically at-risk students.

After many months of research, internal meetings, committee work and listening to focus groups and task forces, the questions come down to:

- Should we buy it or build it?
- Do we have the expertise to build it? How long is it going to take? What is the cost of building and maintaining such a system?
- Can we afford to buy it? Should we get a hosted (cloud-based) solution? Should we maintain our own server? Does the vendor even offer a non-cloud-based solution?

The Problem

In recognition of these difficult questions, the fact that many universities may not be able to budget for the recurring cost of a vended solution, and because many universities may be restricted by state or federal privacy laws from storing their data in a vendor provided cloud environment, we have decided to make RetainME early warning and retention software available to public and private universities.

The cost of membership is negligible for most academic institutions and there is no requirement to place your data in a vendor hosted cloud-based environment. Furthermore, your institution will have access to all the benefits of belonging to a research-based retention consortium.

1 Retaining one student per year will pay for cost of consortium membership.