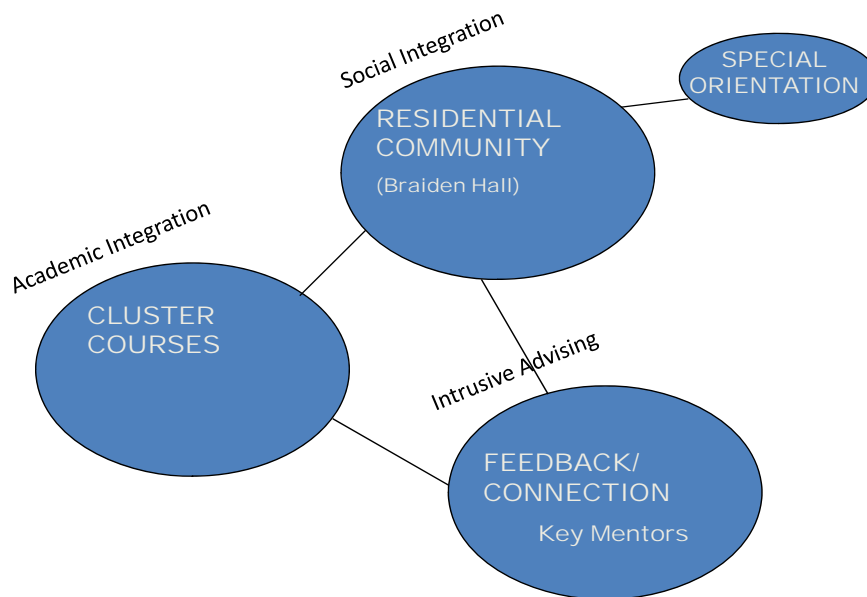




## KeyCommunities

**The Key Communities (Key Academic Community, Key Service Community, and Key Plus Community)** are highly diverse first and second year learning communities designed to assist students with their transition to and through the university. Based on active and experiential learning through interdisciplinary classes, service-learning, academic and career exploration, undergraduate research and leadership development, Key aims to increase retention and academic performance of participants, encourage campus and community involvement, and promote diversity awareness.



### The Key Communities

#### Mission

To assist students with their transition to and through their first two years at Colorado State University by providing an enriched academic and social environment that is welcoming to students of all backgrounds and experiences.

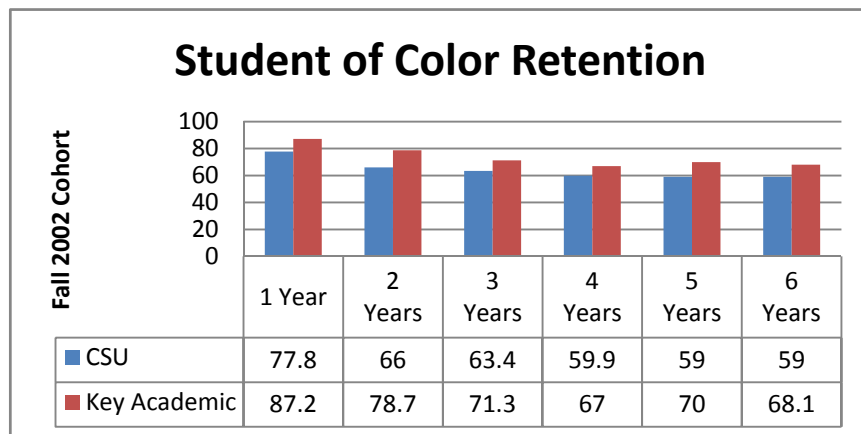
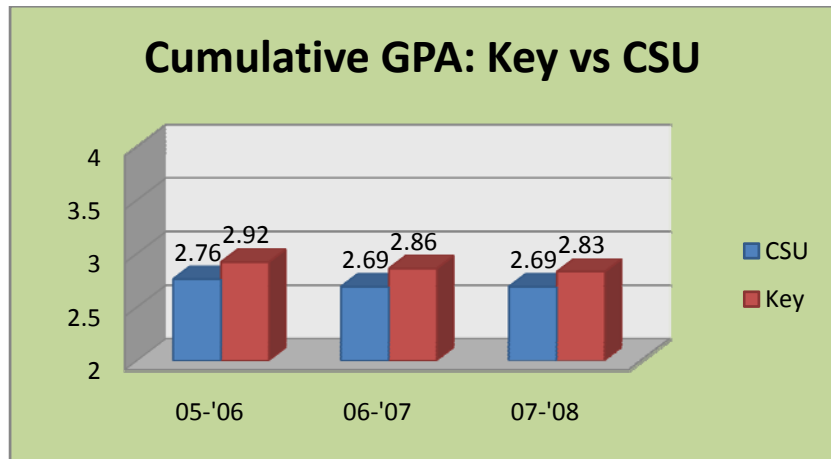
#### Goals

- Develop strong **communities** with an academic focus.
- Provide the opportunity for **shared learning** both within and outside of the classroom, as well as opportunities to engage in academic experiences on campus.
- Provide student **feedback**, such as midterm grades, and individual interactions with mentors about a student's academic progress.
- Foster a **healthy, diverse community** in which students interact with and learn about students with backgrounds different from their own.
- Develop **meaningful relationships** among student peers and faculty and staff mentors.

- Offer enriched opportunities for **involvement** and **leadership** development, encouraging students to feel connected to the university community.

**Highlights**

- Since 2003 Key has expanded from 218 to 386 total students in all three communities combined
- 81.5% of Key students were satisfied with their decision to participate in Key
- 100% of faculty who responded to the Faculty Survey were satisfied with their experience teaching in Key
- Key Plus students are retained to the third year at 9.7 percentage points higher than the university average
- Key Academic students are more likely to be retained to the second year than the University average. The difference is greatest for students of color (6.5 percentage points) and nonresidents (12.2 percentage points) at nearly every Index range. Starting with the 2006 cohort, Key Service students were retained at nearly 6 percentage points higher in freshman retention when compared to CSU
- Since the start of Key Service, 322 students contributed 9,392 hours of service/volunteer work
- When compared to students at other institutions, Key Academic Community students reported statistically significant outcomes in the following areas: ease with academic transition; growth in cognitive complexity; growth in liberal learning; growth in personal philosophy; appreciation for diversity; sense of civic engagement; and satisfaction with faculty/staff members.
- Key students participating in the Taking Stock at Mid-Semester/Early Intervention Program when compared to the CSU population living on campus had fewer concerns on the following areas: developing quality friendships on campus; developing connections to find information; involved in campus clubs or activities; involved in a study group; attending all of classes; finding academic help; finding campus welcoming and supportive of students of my background and experience; satisfied with academic experience at CSU so far.





## ***Key Academic Community***

Academics. Leadership. Community. Diversity. These comprise the values of the **Key Academic Community**, a first-year living learning community of 190 students living together in Braiden Hall and co-enrolling in cluster courses in groups of 19. Students who participate in the Key Academic Community have the opportunity to build connections with faculty and staff, live with a close-knit group of students who share the values of the community, and develop leadership skills through campus and community programs. Key Academic Community students are dedicated to high standards for academic performance combined with the support and resources needed for success, an appreciation for diversity and involvement in campus activities.



## ***Key Service Community***

The **Key Service Community** is a first-year living learning community developed around the theme of “student leadership and civic engagement.” The Key Service Community is comprised of 150 students living together in Parmelee Hall and co-enrolling in linked courses in groups of 19. In this community, students take advantage of year-long service opportunities while building connections with faculty and community organizations. Through discussion, service, and reflection, students will develop a personal philosophy about their role in our world as well as assess how they can contribute to a more civil society while becoming more active and positive role models within university life and beyond.



## ***Key Plus Community***

The Key Plus community is an optional **sophomore** year program for students who participated in either the Key Academic Community or Key Service Community. Key Plus is an academically focused learning community at Colorado State University, but works more closely with students to develop leadership and career decision making skills. Key Plus is an honorary opportunity with limited spaces. Students must apply and be selected to participate in the program. Key Plus is the next step that provides an enriched educational and social environment.