



Stella and Charles Guttman Community College



STELLA AND CHARLES
GUTTMAN
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Guttman Community College, the newest community college in the City University of New York (CUNY), offers an equity-driven, high- impact, guided pathways learning experience to best support its diverse, urban student population.

In just a few years, Guttman had achieved considerable success toward their graduation and transfer rate goals, but their student success team was struggling to keep up. The college didn't have systems in place for advisors to manage their caseloads or for administration to understand what supports were working well for students.

Guttman adopted Starfish® as part of its Integrated Planning and Advising for Student Success (IPASS) initiative. After launching in 2015, they scaled the platform to connect all campus support services to students and created a space for instructional teams to effectively keep track of student progress.

"Starfish allowed us to keep detailed notes, make referrals, offer students more opportunities to get support, and use one system across the college to make appointments with faculty and staff," said Laura Gambino, Associate Dean for Assessment and Technology.

"Starfish allows our advising team to be virtually embedded in the classroom, so they can really get a sense of what's happening and have a meaningful conversations with students to help them stay on track"

- Danielle Insalaca-Egan,
 Assistant Dean for Student Support

98%

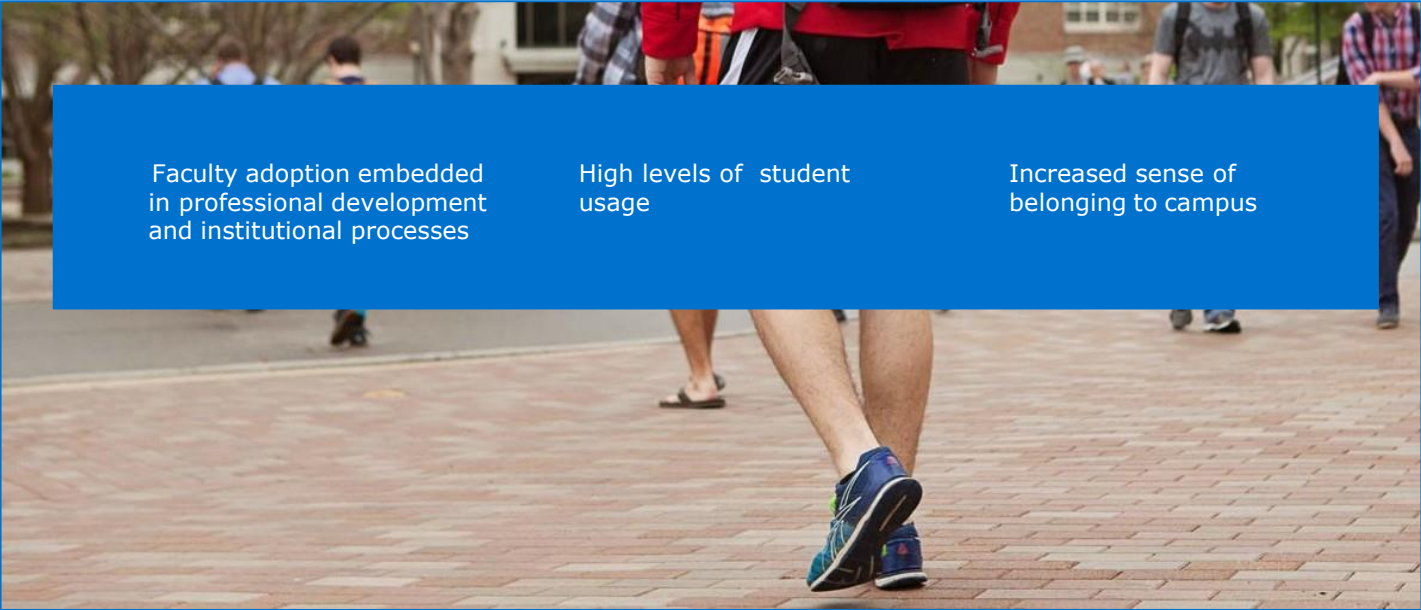
of faculty and staff use Starfish as part of their role at Guttman

81%

of students say receiving Kudos increases their motivation to succeed

79%

of students use Starfish to connect with support services on campus



Faculty adoption embedded in professional development and institutional processes

High levels of student usage

Increased sense of belonging to campus

A Guided Pathway Approach

Guttman’s educational model is built on evidence-based practices designed to increase student success, including a mandatory Summer Bridge program, a learning community model, full-time attendance requirement for the first year of study, and a first-year interdisciplinary, general education curriculum. “If we know something works, we are going to put it into place for everyone,” explained Gambino. “When a student enters Guttman, they have a guided pathway.”

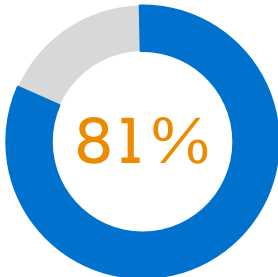
Starfish is integrated into all areas of Guttman’s Guided Pathway model. Students are introduced to the platform during the Summer Bridge Program, and faculty and staff go through extensive training so they can build Starfish into their lesson plans. “The time our faculty and advisors spend with students on Starfish early on has led to high levels of student usage,” explained Gambino.

During a student’s first year of study, they are supported by an instructional team of faculty, advisors, and support staff who meet weekly to review student progress. They review all flags and kudos in Starfish and refer students to academic supports they may need. Faculty and advisors use Starfish to share office hours and let students schedule appointments, which has been helpful in making faculty feel more accessible to students.

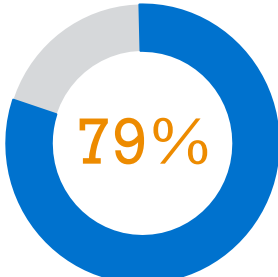
Once students move to their second year of study, Starfish remains a critical communication tool for advisors and career strategists to share notes and to provide a holistic view of students’ progress. “If we didn’t have Starfish in place, we wouldn’t be able to help students make informed decisions about their academic goals,” said Insalaca-Egan.

Students Connect to Success

As Gambino explained, “a student success initiative is only good if students find that it is useful and helpful to them.” By integrating Starfish into the entire student journey, students develop a sense of belonging to the college.



of students believe that receiving Kudos in Starfish increases their motivation to succeed



of students find it helpful to use Starfish to connect with support services on campus