



CUNY Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP)

**Donna Linderman
University Dean for Student Success Initiatives and
ASAP Executive Director
CUNY Office of Academic Affairs**

***State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) Annual Meeting
Santa Fe, NM
July 9, 2015***

ASAP THEORY OF ACTION

- Remove financial barriers to full-time study
- Provide structured degree pathways and comprehensive, well-coordinated support services
- Establish clear expectations for all students
- Build community through early engagement and cohort model

More fully engaged students who graduate in a timely manner

Goal: At least 50% of students earn an associate degree within three years

ASAP INCEPTION

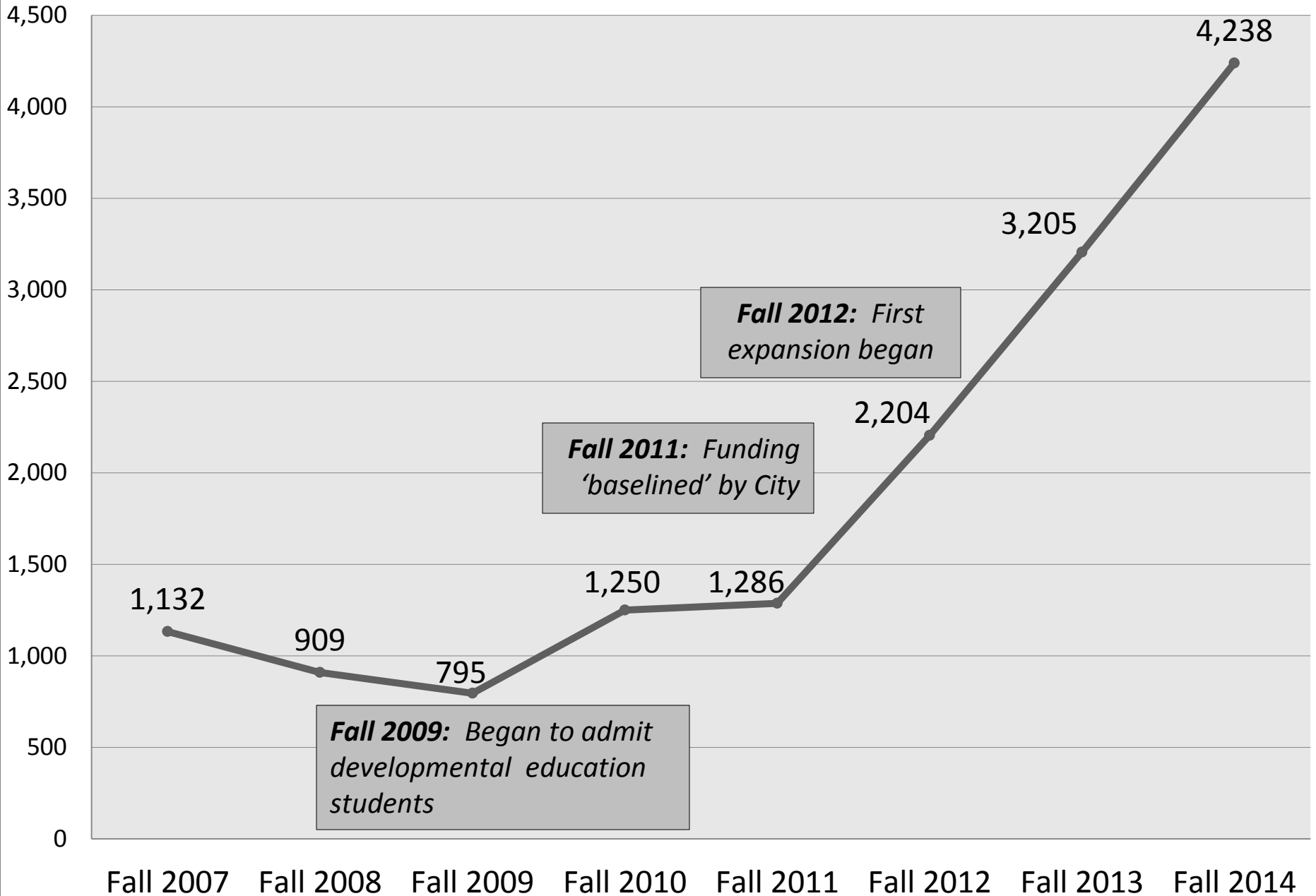
2007:

- CUNY funded by the Mayor's Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO) as a three-year pilot
- ASAP launched with 1,132 fully skills proficient students* across six CUNY community colleges in the fall semester

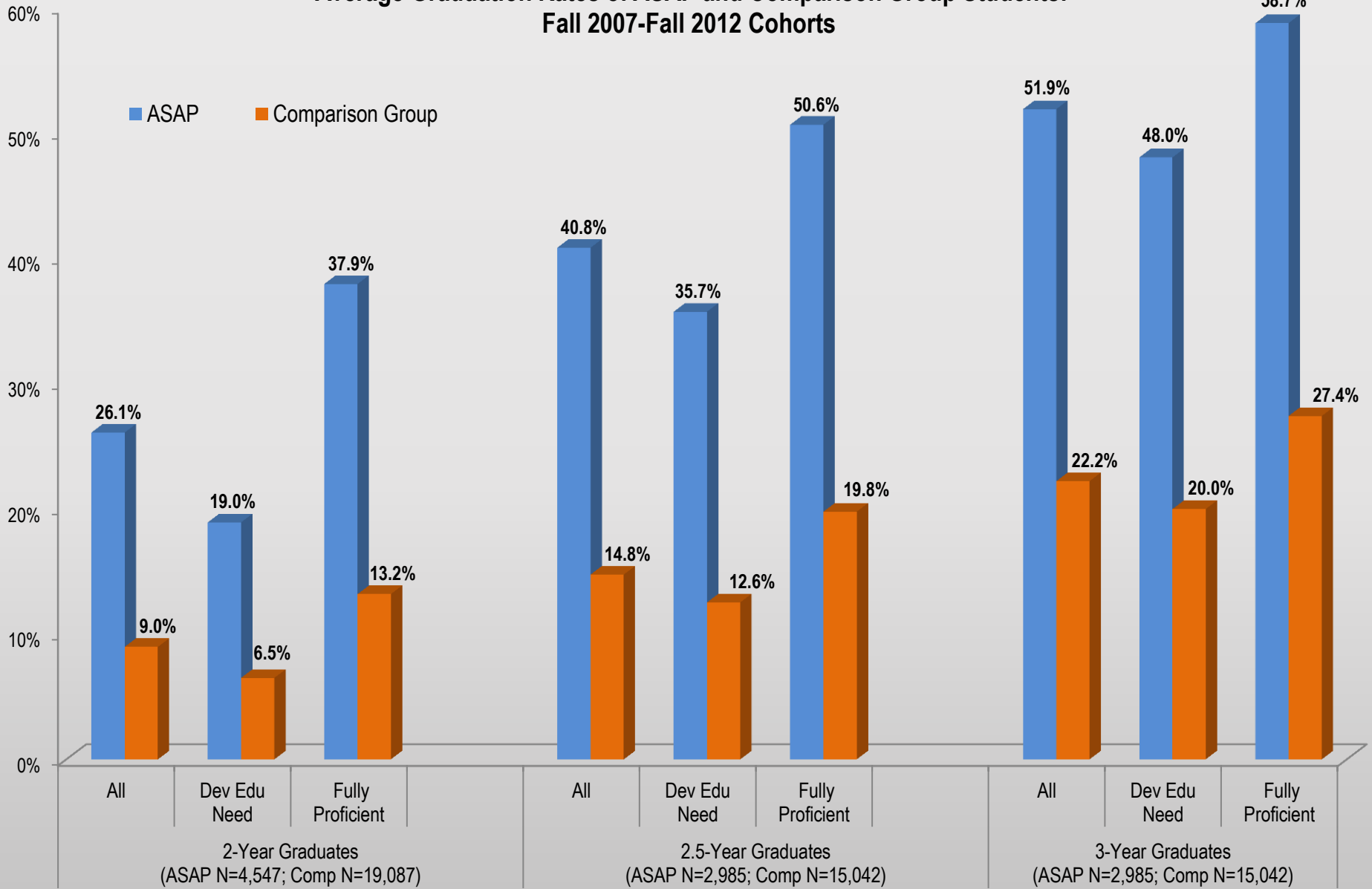
**28% of fall 2007 ASAP students had some developmental needs when recruited that were addressed over summer.*

ASAP Total Enrollment by Semester

Fall 2007 to Fall 2014



Average Graduation Rates of ASAP and Comparison Group Students: Fall 2007-Fall 2012 Cohorts



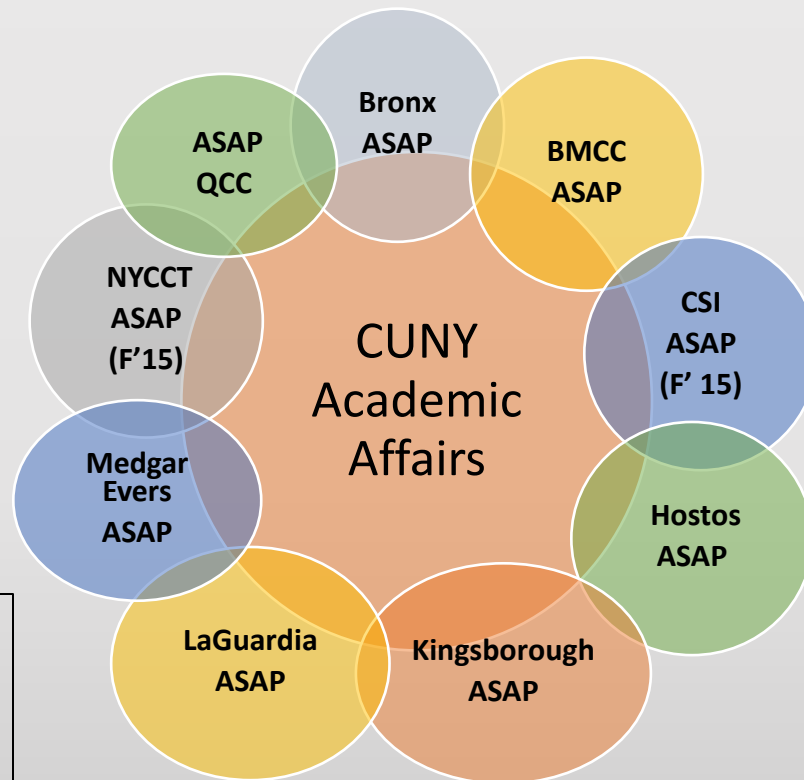
ASAP SELECTION CRITERIA

- Must be City resident and/or eligible for in-state tuition
- Agree to study full-time in an ASAP-approved major
 - Most majors other than nursing and allied health are offered
- Continuing/transfer students: less than 15 credits and in good academic standing
- Be fully skills proficient *or* have no more than two developmental course needs at application
- Receive some need-based financial aid (Pell and/or TAP)

Summary Profile of Combined ASAP and CUNY Community College Students

		Combined ASAP Students (Fall 2007-Fall 2014)	CUNY Community Colleges (Fall 2013)
Total Enrollment	N	8,670	97,751
Gender			
Female	%	58.1	56.9
Ethnicity			
American Indian/Native Alaskan	%	0.4	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	%	11.5	15.9
Black	%	32.0	28.1
Hispanic	%	42.6	39.0
White	%	13.6	16.6
Age	mean	21	23
Admission Type			
First-time Freshmen	%	66.6	71.5
Developmental Students	%		
At Time of Application to ASAP/CUNY	%	80.1	81.1
GED Recipients	%	11.6	6.6
Pell Receipt	%	74.3	56.9

ASAP PROGRAM ORGANIZATION



Colleges:

- Local program management
- Recruitment and direct services to students
- Monitoring student progress/engagement
- Campus relationships and integration

CUNY OAA:

- Overall program administration
- Program-wide resources
- Evaluation/data management
- External partnerships
- Citywide outreach

ASAP CORE ELEMENTS

■ Financial Resources

- Tuition waivers (for financial aid eligible students)
- Free use of textbooks
- Monthly MTA Metrocards

■ Structured Pathways

- Consolidated full-time course schedules (ie: am, afternoon, evening, weekend)
- Immediate/continuous developmental course taking
- Winter and summer courses

ASAP CORE ELEMENTS

- **Comprehensive and Coordinated Supports**
 - High-touch advisement
 - Embedded career development services
 - Tutoring resources (mandated for some students)
 - Referrals to campus resources (Single Stop, counseling)
- **Early Engagement and Connected Community**
 - Summer developmental courses and advisor contact
 - ASAP Summer Institute
 - First-year blocked courses

ASAP EVALUATION

INTERNAL:

- Ongoing quasi-experimental analysis (using official CUNY data)
- Web-based data management system
- Annual student surveys and focus groups
- Data reviewed regularly to assess impact, measure movement towards goals, and improve program practice

EXTERNAL:

- Cost-benefit study by the Center for Benefit Cost Studies in Education (CBCSE), Teachers College led Dr. Henry Levin
- Five-year random assignment study by MDRC

ASAP COST-BENEFIT STUDY BY LEVIN AND GARCIA

Cost Effectiveness Report (September 2012):

- ASAP saves \$6,500 per graduate vs. comparison group
- Suggests ASAP is a wise up-front investment

Cost Benefits Report (May 2013):

- Increased lifetime earnings and tax revenues and savings to public assistance, criminal justice, and public health
- Total net benefit for 1,000 enrolled ASAP students=\$46.5 million **higher** than for 1,000 comparison group students

Source: Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education (CBCSE)

ASAP COSTS

- ASAP add on per-student over and above usual CUNY FTEs:
 - Pre-expansion annual cost/student=\$6,000
 - Fall 2014 annual cost/student=\$3,900
 - Fall 2015 annual cost/student: \$3,700
- Costs are dropping as program expands
- ASAP Funding Sources: City of New York (90%) and State of New York with some periodic private foundation support (Robin Hood, Helmsley Trust, Guttman Foundation)

ASAP GROWTH & REPLICATION

- Expand to 25,000 students by 2018 supported by the Mayor's Office (\$77m):
 - Focus on serving more STEM majors
 - Addition of two more colleges (College of Staten Island and New York City College of Technology)
- ASAP pilot in baccalaureate setting:
 - John Jay College in fall 2015 (with support from Robin Hood Foundation)
- Replication demonstration project in Ohio at three community colleges with MDRC