Student Employment Myths

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS:

Perception:

_Students who work while attending school full-time struggle to keep up with their studies because of time management issues. Student employees, in turn, have a lower GPA than students who don’t work._

Reality:

Working while attending school full-time increases the need for students to manage their time and thus helps students establish a more structured routine. In 2015, University of Iowa students who worked between 1-15 hours per week had a better average GPA than students who didn’t work. From 16-20 hours the stats were equal. The same data is validated with national statistics as well. _On average, students who work on campus maintain a higher GPA than those who don’t._

Perception:

_Having a student job affects the focus of students negatively away from the classroom and can cause early drop-out rates._

Reality:

No campus activity has shown as much positive influence on a students’ academic success as has campus employment. On-campus employers are aware that the students they hire have a #1 priority of doing well in school; therefore, the vast majority of employers are flexible with students’ schedules. From 2005-2014, University of Iowa data shows that student employees are retained at a 92% average year-to-year compared to the University-wide average of 85%. A 7% increase!

Perception:

_With less time to focus on academics, student workers struggle to graduate in four years and take much longer to finish their degree requirements._

Reality:

Not only do student employees keep up with their non-working counterparts when it comes to graduation rates, but they far exceed the University of Iowa graduation rate average at both the four- and six-year levels. Since 2005, _four-year graduation rates for students who work on campus are at a 7.7% higher level than the university average, while the six-year graduation rates have an even more significant increase with student employees graduating at a 11.9% higher level._