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Academic advising a key to student success

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There is increasing pressure on state institu-
tions of higher education to raise student
graduation rates. Decreasing state support
and the need to compete for students who do not graduate on schedule face an
institution. One solution many have taken is
to hire more academic advisers. These profes-
sional advisers, people with the training
and skills needed to help students keep on
track, are solving a variety of problems—
other things—graduate on time.
When I spoke with several of these experts
Hinteracher, a native of O'Fallon, Ill., he
obtained his bachelor’s degree in liberal studies
from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
and his master’s degree in educational leadership
from Grand Valley State University. Today he is
the associate dean of academic affairs and
Arts and Sciences at SIUE. He said that his
chief role as an academic adviser was to get a feel
for “the bachelor of liberal studies degree,”
but that “academic affairs is my term of departure,
step beyond because I know that I wanted to
teach, but not for the sake of teaching the
associate degree courses and faculty within the
department.” Hinteracher clarified that he was
able to get a well-rounded view of SIUE.

Although he reports that professional advis-
ing is “very, very critical,” he said that it is
important that it is prepared. The number of
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