



Reisher Scholars Program

Student Success Outcomes FA16-FA19

A distinct program within the Community for Excellence (C4E) collaborative effort, the Reisher Scholars Program awards scholarships to second-year Colorado students who demonstrate academic promise, leadership abilities, and financial need as undergraduates. This report is a brief extension of the comprehensive January 2020 report on [C4E Student Success Outcomes FA16-FA19](#) and specifically expands upon Tables 130 through 132 in [Appendix B](#) of that report. It highlights key findings for both “New” (CSU sophomores) and Transfer students in the Reisher Program (n=69), aggregating data from FA16 through FA19 cohorts.

Key Findings

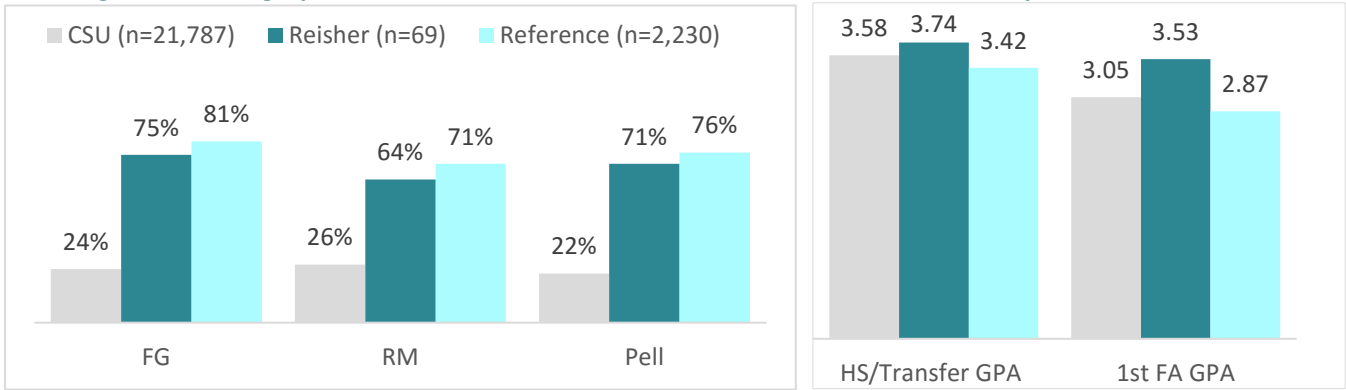
- Overall, Reisher Scholars achieve higher student success outcomes along the dimensions of persistence and mean GPA as compared to a comparable reference group of students. However, Reisher students also have demographic characteristics and prior CSU academic performance metrics that are correlated with higher student success.
- Reisher Scholars have a higher persistence rate into their second spring and third fall compared to reference students. 98% of Reisher Scholars persist to second spring and 85% persist to third fall, representing an edge over reference students of 9PP (91%) and 13PP (85%), respectively.
- Reisher Scholars also maintain a higher mean GPA over reference students from first fall to third fall term. However, the gap in GPA does decrease slightly over time as Reisher Scholars’ mean GPA declines from a high of 3.54 to 3.43 by third fall and as reference students’ mean GPA increases slightly from 2.87 to 2.94 by third fall.
- The average Reisher Scholar is awarded more than double the amount of second fall grant and scholarship aid compared to reference students. The median Reisher Scholar is awarded \$25,339 while the median reference student is awarded \$12,607. There is also less overall variation in the amount of aid given to Reisher Scholars compared to reference students.

Reisher Demographics and Prior Academic Performance

[Table 1](#) below shows a comprehensive list of demographic and prior achievement means for Reisher Scholars by entering cohort year and overall. Of note, student headcount in the Reisher program stayed fairly consistent in cohorts FA16 up through FA18, averaging approximately 21 students per cohort. However, in FA19, the total headcount dropped to 7 students.

Figure 1 shows overall mean comparisons for CSU overall, Reisher Scholars, and the reference group across key demographic characteristics and prior GPA. The reference group includes second year students with at least two structurally underserved characteristics (i.e., racially minoritized, first generation, or Pell recipient), have Colorado residency, and are not participants in C4E, AAC, or Key.

Figure 1: Demographic Characteristics of Reisher and Reference Students Compared to CSU Overall



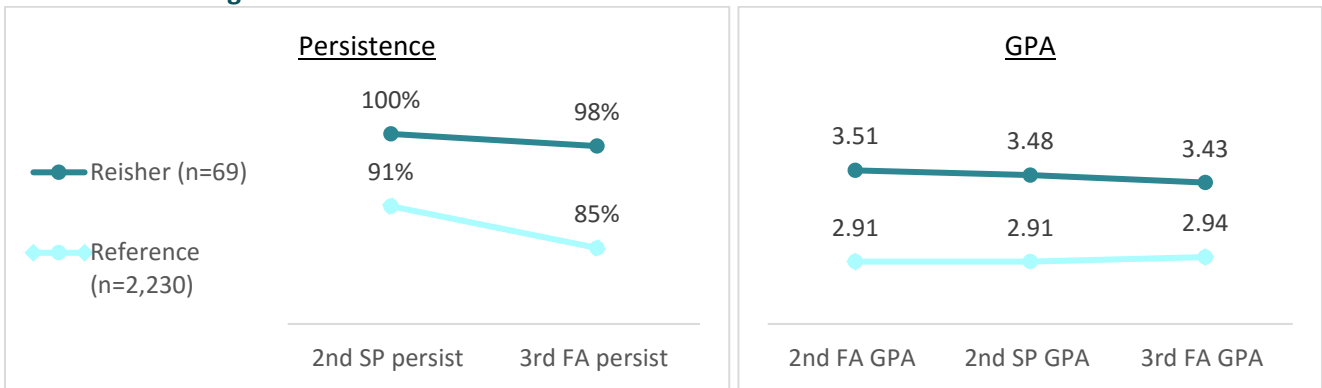
First generation (FG), racially minoritized (RM), and Pell recipients are heavily overrepresented in the Reisher Scholars Program compared with CSU overall. While the reference group is comparable along these dimensions, representation in these identities is 5 to 7PP higher among the reference group. Reisher Scholars have a slightly higher high school/transfer GPA than reference students (3.74 compared to 3.42) and a notably higher first fall CSU GPA (3.53 compared to 2.87).

Reisher Scholars are also slightly more likely to be Female compared to the reference group (60.9% compared to 54.5%) and less likely to come from a rural Colorado community (10.4% compared to 16.7%). See [Table 1](#) below for Reisher means as well as Table 47 in Appendix A of the full report for reference group means.

Reisher Student Success Outcomes

Figure 2 illustrates changes in student persistence and mean GPA over time, showing difference between Reisher Scholars and reference students.

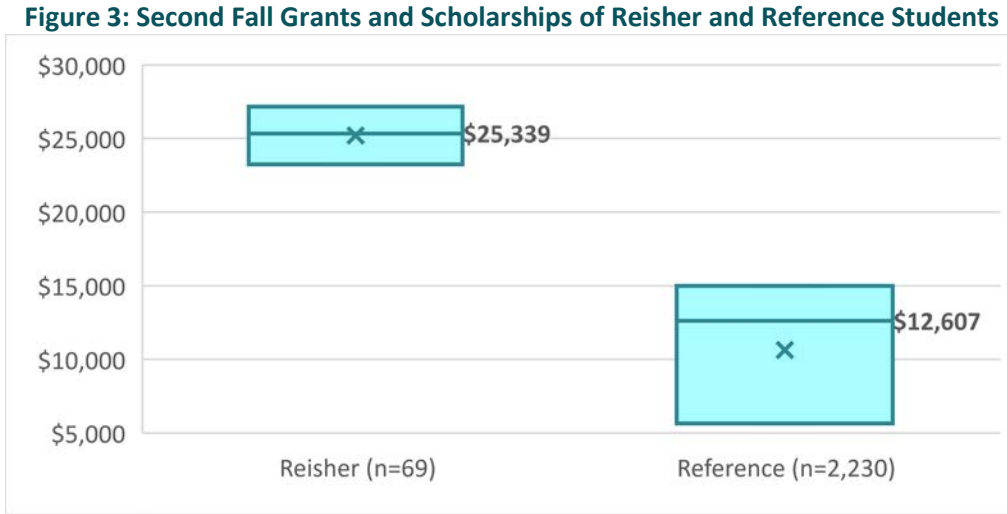
Figure 2: Persistence Rates and Mean GPA of Reisher and Reference Students



While 100% of Reisher Scholars persist to second spring, only 91% of reference students persist. By third fall, 98% of Reisher Scholars persist while 85% of reference students persist. Reisher Scholars also maintain a higher mean GPA than reference students from first fall up through third fall. Still, the gap in GPA performance does narrow over time as Reisher Scholars mean GPA declines from 3.53 in second fall to 3.43 in third fall.

Meanwhile, reference students' mean GPA climbs slightly from 2.87 in first fall to 2.94 in third spring. [Table 2](#) below shows student success outcomes broken down by cohort-year for Reisher Scholars, while Table 48 in Appendix A of the full report shows comparable numbers for the reference group.

Figure 3 represents a box plot showing the interquartile range of grant and scholarship aid awarded to Reisher Scholars and students in the reference group.



Note: This box plot figure shows the lower quartile, median, upper quartile, and mean values for second fall grant and scholarship aid. It does not show the full range of aid data, from the minimum to the maximum, represented traditionally by “whiskers”.

In their second fall, Reisher Scholars are awarded significantly more grant and scholarship funding than reference students. The median (mean) Reisher Scholar is awarded \$25,339 (\$25,203), while the median (mean) reference student is awarded \$12,607 (\$10,638). By either metric, the average Reisher Scholar has twice the amount of grant and scholarship aid.

Figure 3 further illustrates that the middle 50% of Reisher Scholars (represented by the enclosed box plot showing aid given to the 25th percentile up to the 75th percentile) are awarded a much larger aid amount overall compared to the middle 50% of reference students. There is also less variation in grant and scholarship aid amongst Reisher Scholars compared to reference students. For example, the difference between the upper quartile and lower quartiles is \$3,925 for Reisher students and nearly three times as large at \$9,355 for reference students. [Table 3](#) below shows more detailed information about grant and scholarship aid for Reisher students while [Table 49](#) in Appendix A of the full report shows identical information for reference students.

Conclusion

Reisher Scholars are significantly more diverse along demographic dimensions as compared to the overall CSU population. They also hold notably higher prior academic achievement in terms of high school/transfer GPA and first fall GPA compared to both the overall CSU population and the relevant reference group. Compared to the reference group, Reisher Scholars have greater student success into their second and third years at CSU, persisting at higher rates and maintaining higher GPAs in later terms. Reisher students also receive substantially more grant and scholarship aid in their second fall term relative to the reference group, and the total variation in awarded aid is much smaller among Reisher Scholars than among the reference group.

Tables for Student Demographics, Success, and Fall Grants & Scholarships for Reisher Scholar Program Participants

Table 1: Reisher Second-Year (New and Transfer) Overall Student Demographics

	FA16	FA17	FA18	FA19	Overall
Headcount	19	23	20	7	69
First generation	84.2%	56.5%	90.0%	71.4%	75.4%
Pell recipient	94.7%	95.7%	95.0%	85.7%	94.2%
Racially minoritized	73.7%	52.2%	70.0%	57.1%	63.8%
- Single race, not white	26.3%	17.4%	15.0%	14.3%	18.8%
- Multi-race, with white	42.1%	34.8%	55.0%	42.9%	43.5%
- Multi-race, not white	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%
Hisp/Latinx	42.1%	30.4%	55.0%	57.1%	43.5%
Asian/Pac Amer	5.3%	8.7%	15.0%	0.0%	8.7%
Black/Afr Amer	21.1%	17.4%	0.0%	0.0%	11.6%
Nat Amer/Amer Ind	10.5%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	5.8%
White	63.2%	82.6%	85.0%	85.7%	78.3%
Female	57.9%	60.9%	70.0%	42.9%	60.9%
Nonresident	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Rural	5.3%	4.5%	26.3%	0.0%	10.4%
HS/Transfer GPA	3.74	3.73	3.80	3.58	3.74
Admit with support	10.5%	17.4%	5.0%	0.0%	10.1%
C4E participant	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
- 2 or more C4E programs	52.6%	47.8%	15.0%	42.9%	39.1%
AAC participant	15.8%	21.7%	10.0%	28.6%	17.4%
Key participant	10.5%	17.4%	0.0%	0.0%	8.7%

Table 2: Reisher Second-Year (New and Transfer) Overall Student Success Outcomes

	FA16	FA17	FA18	FA19	Overall
Headcount	19	23	20	7	69
1st SP complete 30 credits	47.4%	47.8%	35.0%	28.6%	42.0%
1st SP persist	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
2nd FA persist	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
2nd SP persist	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		100.0%
3rd FA persist	100.0%	100.0%	95.0%		98.4%
1st FA GPA	3.51	3.55	3.54	3.51	3.53
1st SP GPA	3.51	3.52	3.58	3.58	3.54
2nd FA GPA	3.44	3.49	3.57	3.59	3.51
2nd SP GPA	3.43	3.47	3.54		3.48
3rd FA GPA	3.37	3.39	3.59		3.43

Table 3: Reisher Second-Year (New and Transfer) Second Fall Grants and Scholarships

	FA16	FA17	FA18	FA19	Overall
Headcount	19	23	20	7	69
Lower quartile	\$22,920	\$23,249	\$22,999		\$23,249
Median	\$25,920	\$24,997	\$24,241		\$25,339
Mean	\$25,321	\$25,016	\$25,304		\$25,203
Upper quartile	\$27,470	\$27,700	\$26,963		\$27,174