

Creating a Seamless Student Journey using Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM)



Heidi Buffington

Director of Admissions
Strategic Enrollment Management Officer



Denise Nijhuis

Coordinator Global Student
Recruitment & Admissions



What is your job?

**When are you
successful?**

- Meeting number goals
- Helping students transition
- Being part of a team
- Working with on-campus colleagues
- Advocating for students
- Seeing students graduate

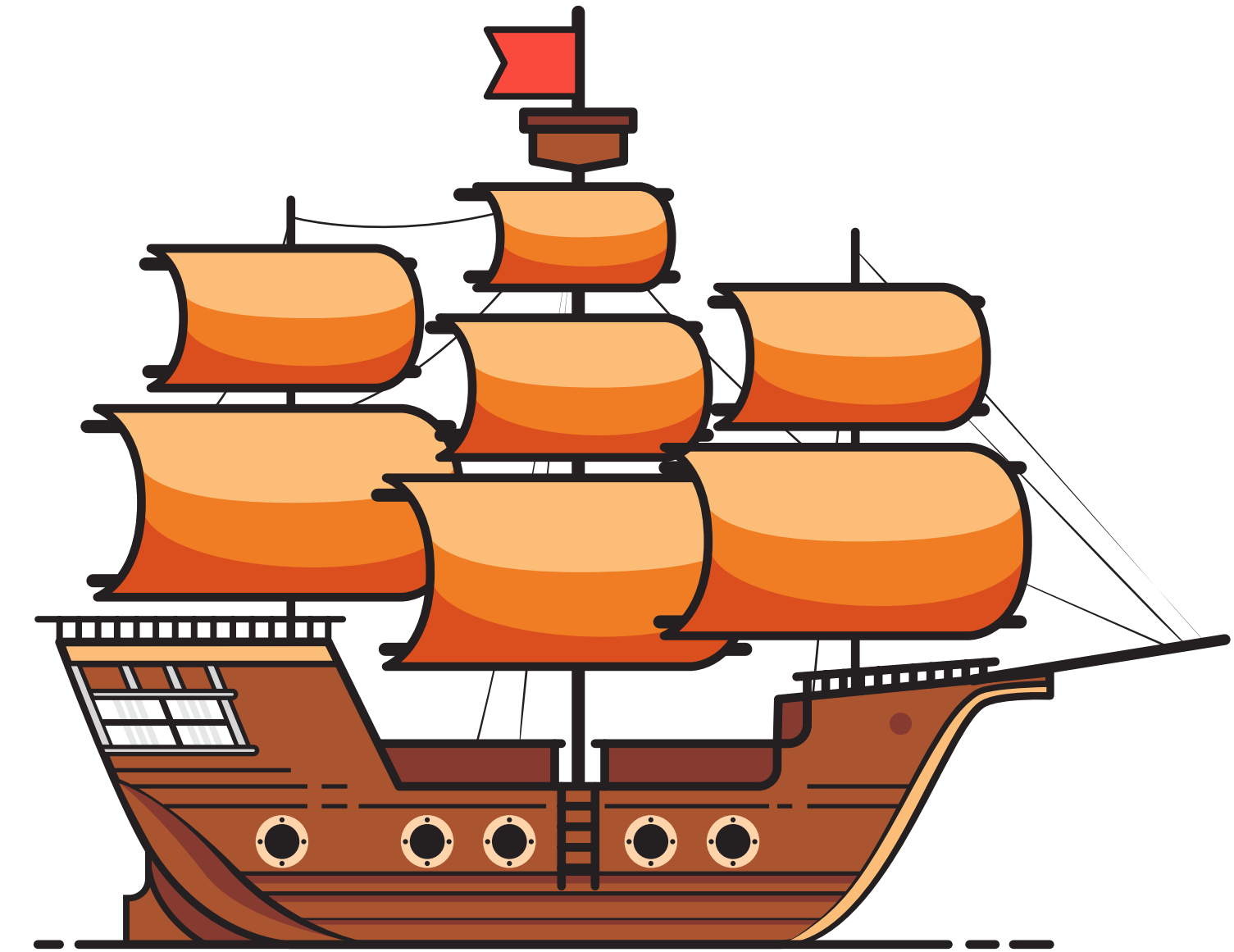
Part 1: What is SEM?



Story: No Direction

Bermuda Triangle: Admissions had no goals or direction.

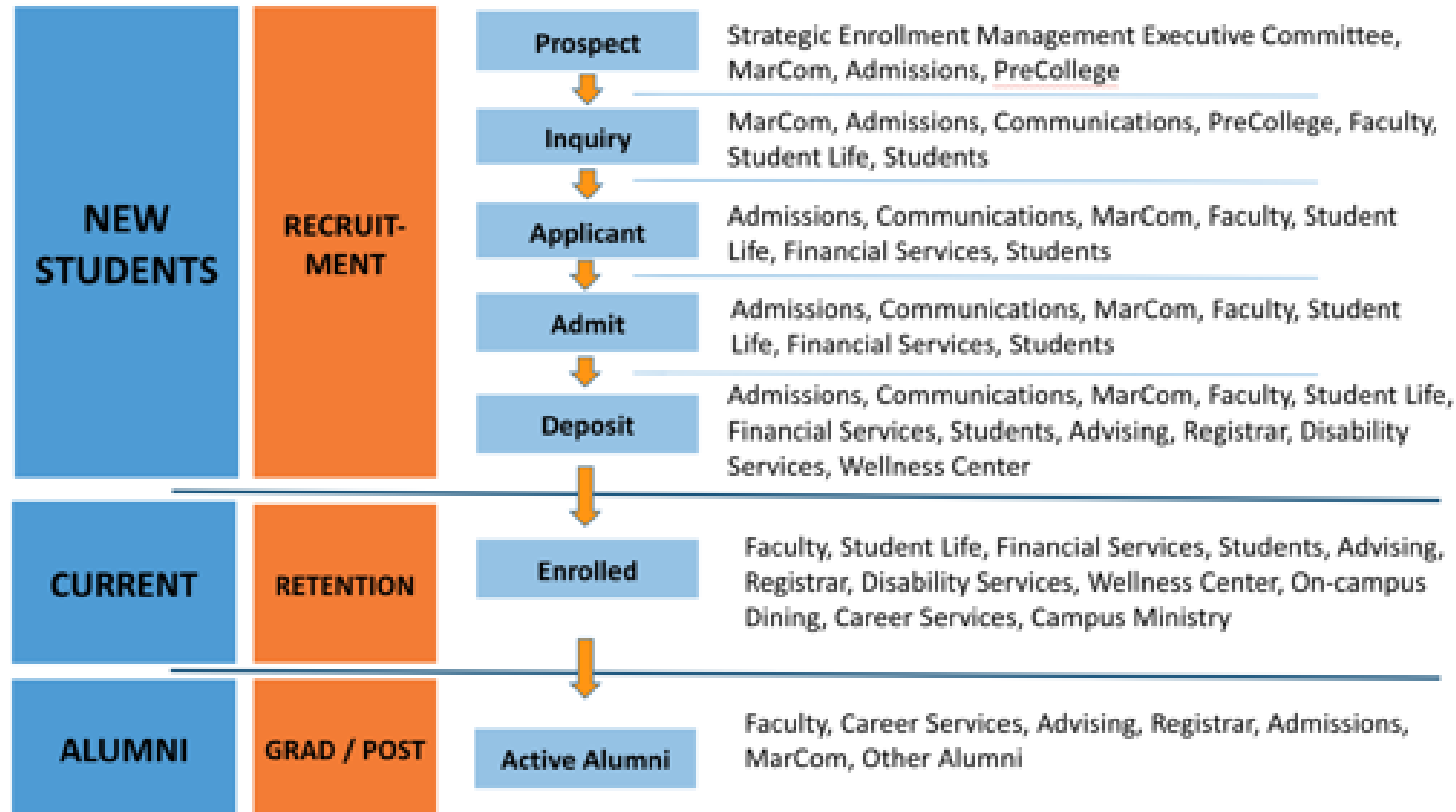
Strategic Enrollment Management



SEM is about student success.

Working to have the entire college/university active in, and responsible for, recruiting, retaining and graduating students.

Who is involved in Marketing, Recruiting and Retaining Students?

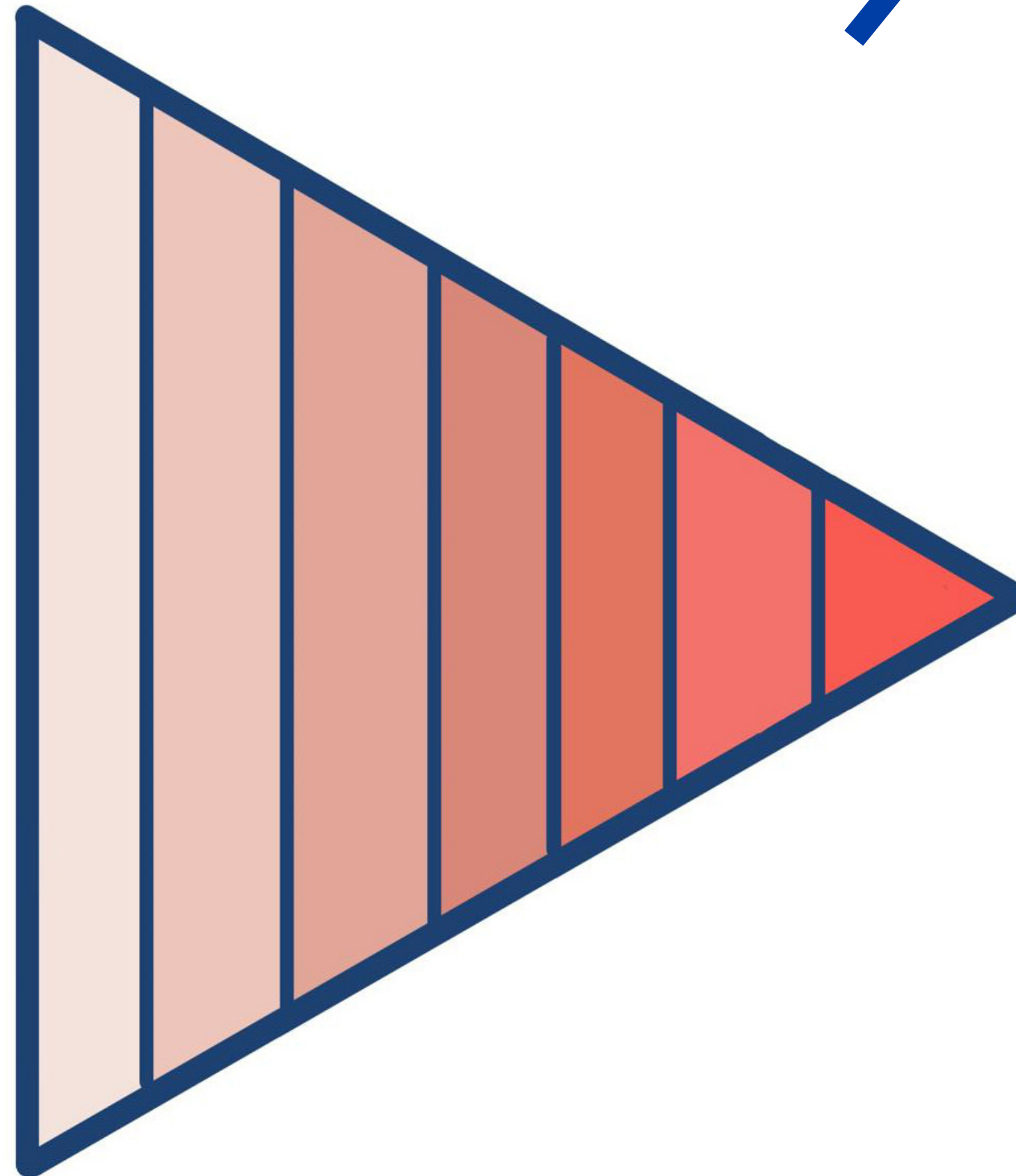
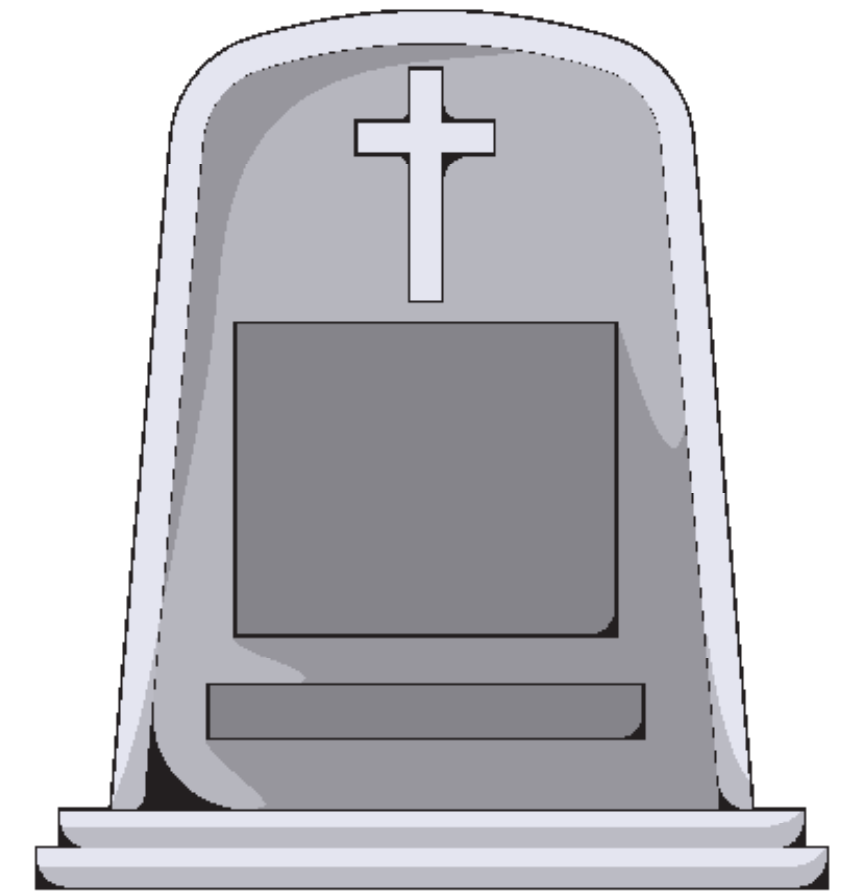


Turning the funnel

From Cradle



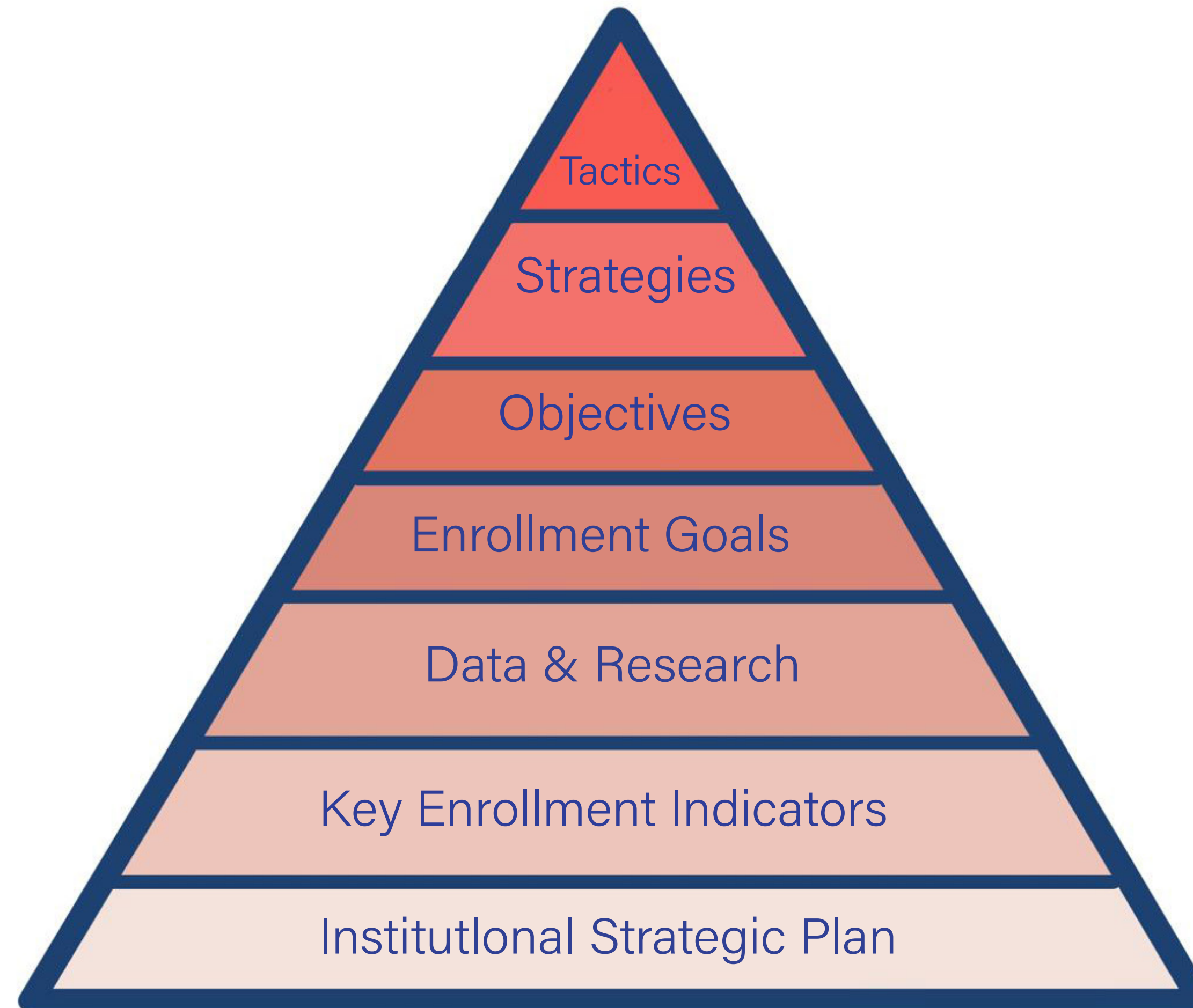
To Grave



Part 2:

What does SEM look like?
(And, how do you use it?)

SEM Planning Framework



Story: Data!

Going from a singular campus culture to a more diverse culture.

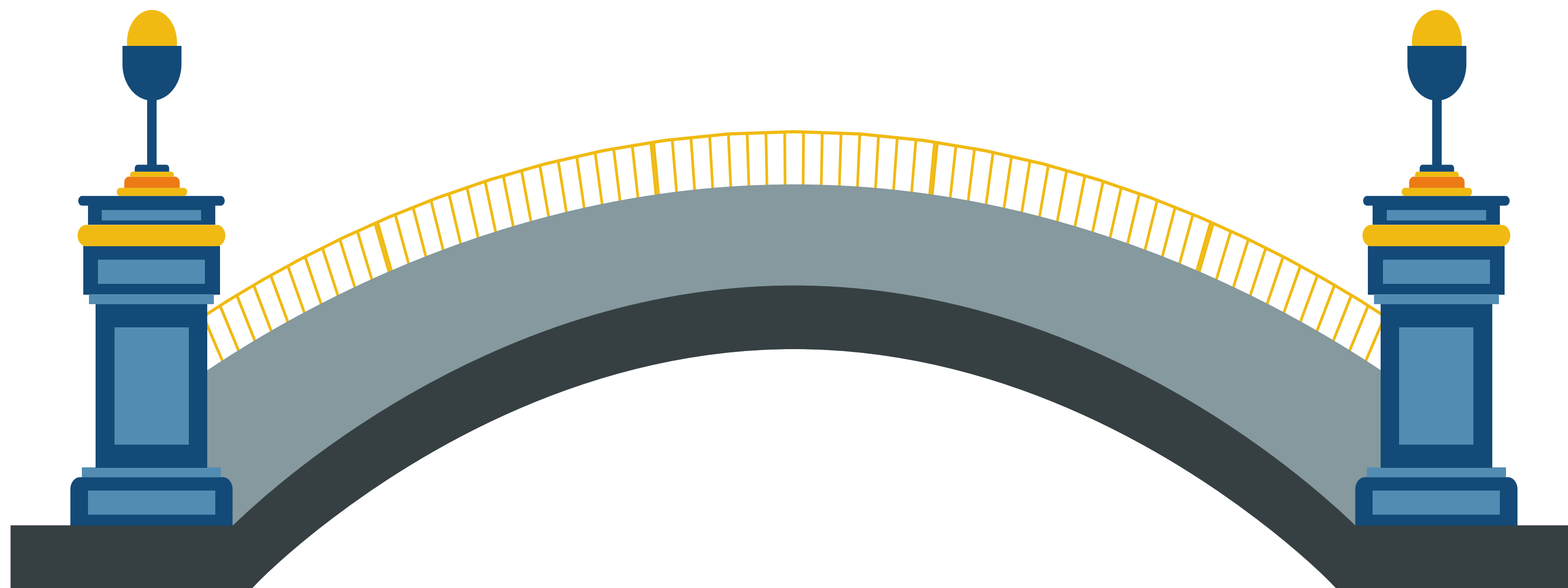
SEM Essentials

1. Campus-wide collaboration
2. Data-rich environment
3. Continual assessment

What is included in a SEM Plan?

- Strategic Framework: Mission, Values, Vision
- Overview of Strategic Plan Goals & Institutional Capacity
- Environmental Scan: Market Trends & Competition Analysis
- Evaluation and Assessment of Position in Market
- Enrollment Goals, Objectives, & Assessment Criteria
- Marketing and Communication Plan
- Recruitment Plan
- Retention & Student Success Plan
- Pre-College Outreach and Pipeline Development Plan
- Student Aid and Scholarship Funding
- Staff Development and Training
- Process Improvements and Technology System Enhancements

Where do you fit in?



**“You cannot connect all
the dots until you collect
all the dots.”**

- J Gordon, in AACRAO Connect, August 2020

Be curious

Make connections

Be a marketer

Experiment with brand messaging

Story: Pitch

**Experiment with your
elevator pitch to see what works
and doesn't work**

Story: Test-optional

**Individual student stories
informed a policy change at
SLU - Madrid**

What data do you collect?

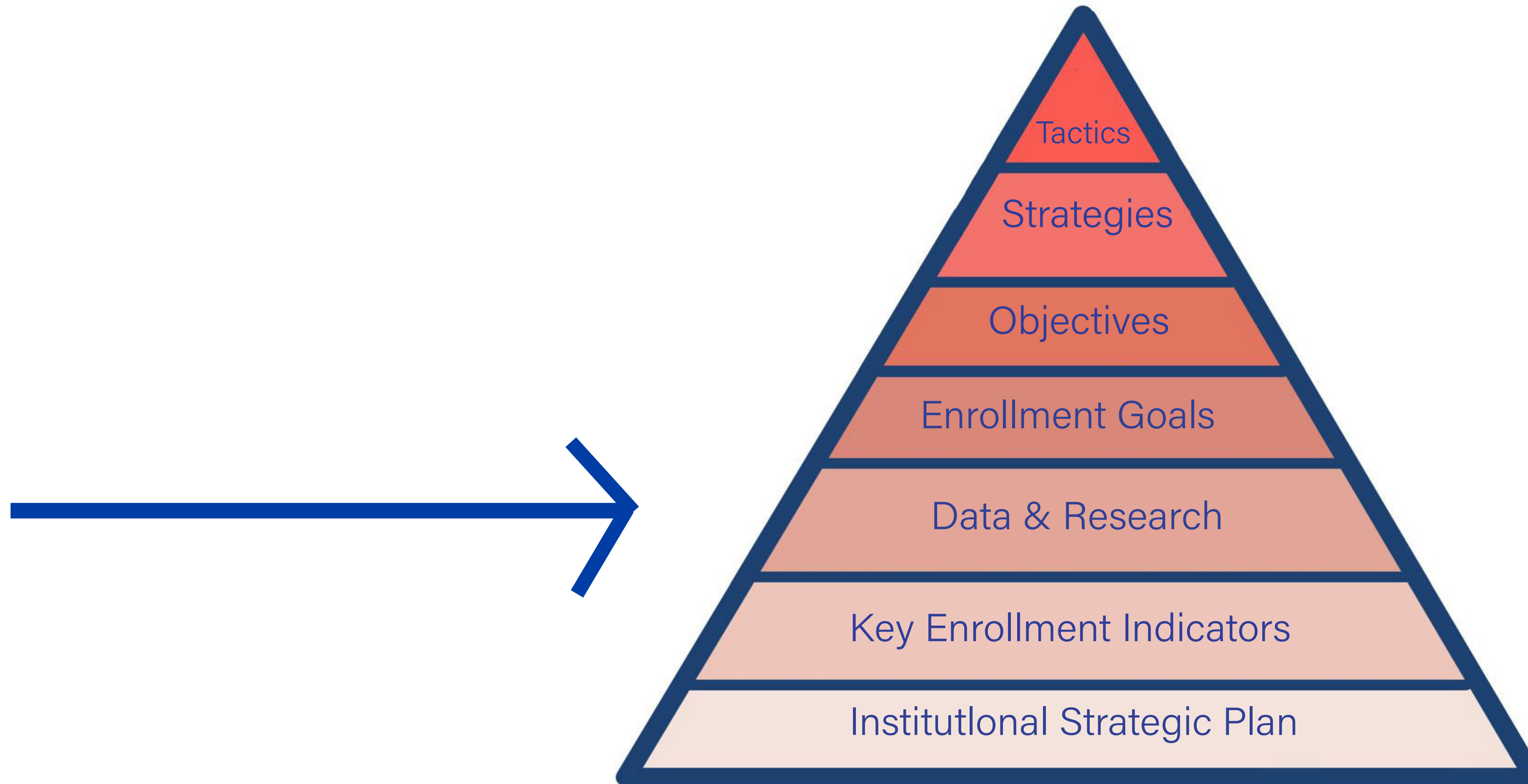
- Leads
- Interest in “X” programs
- Other? What?

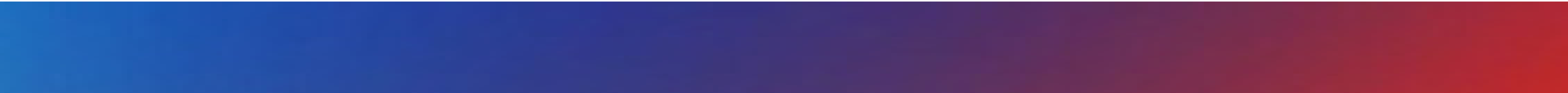
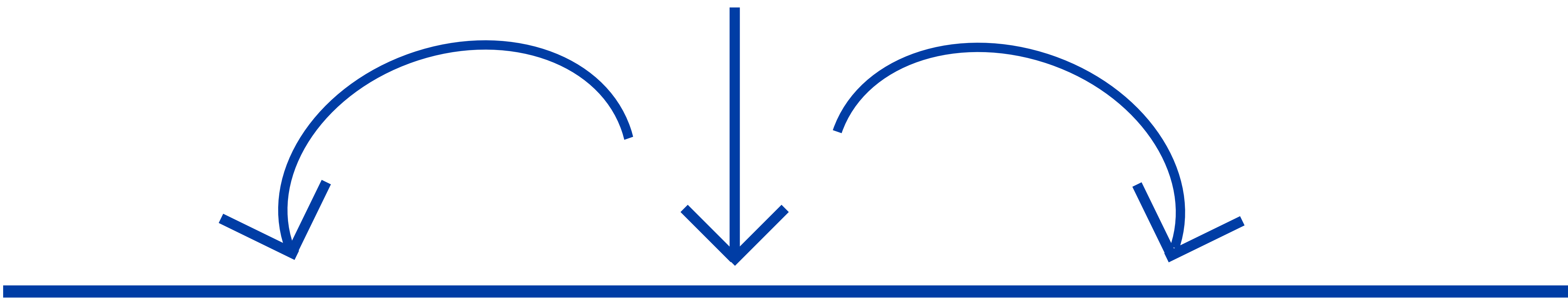
- Brochure tally
- # of conversations
- Ask about “X”
- Mobile-free schools
- FAQs

Part 3:

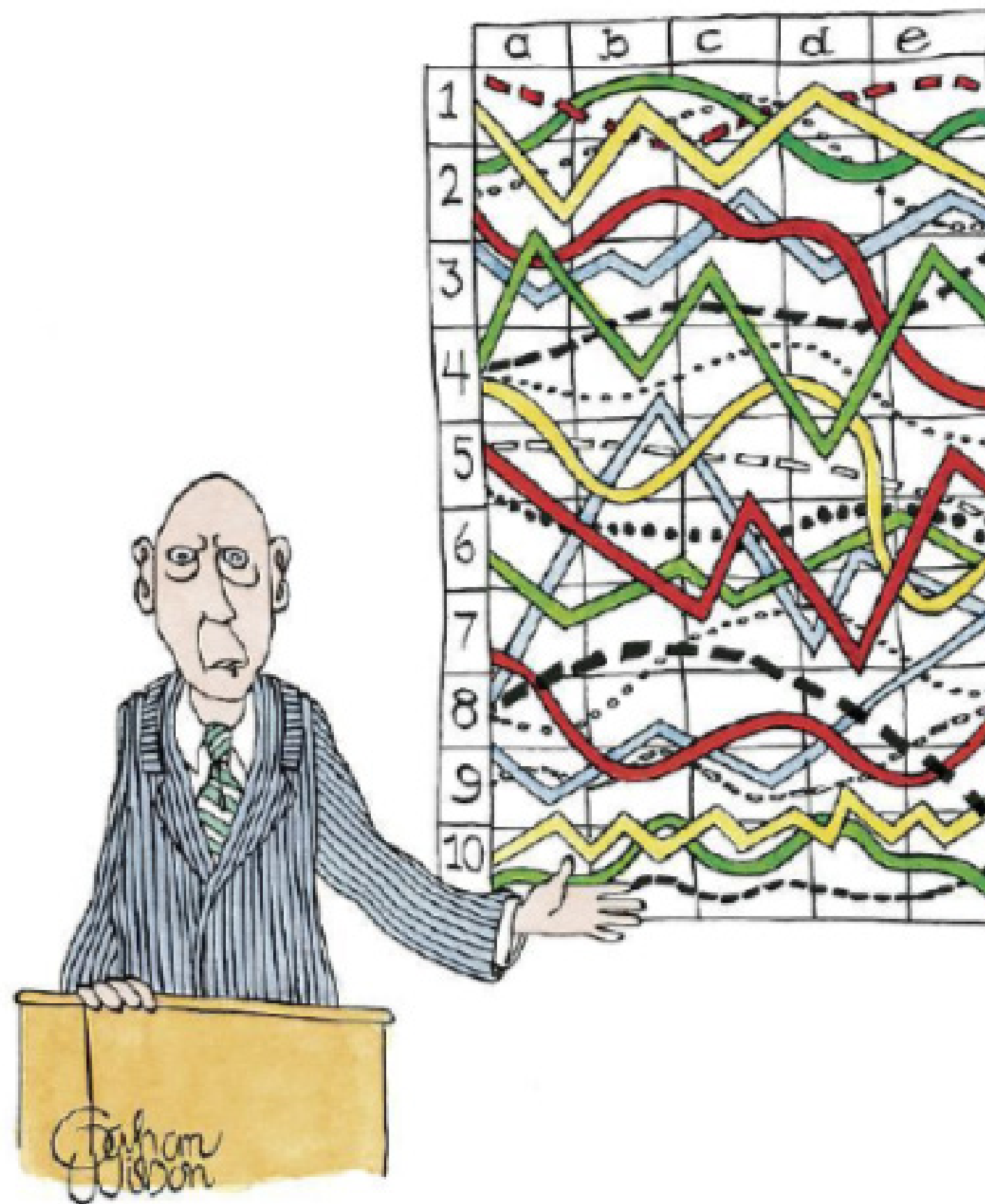
What do you do with the data you collect?

SEM Planning Framework





You can be an influencer.

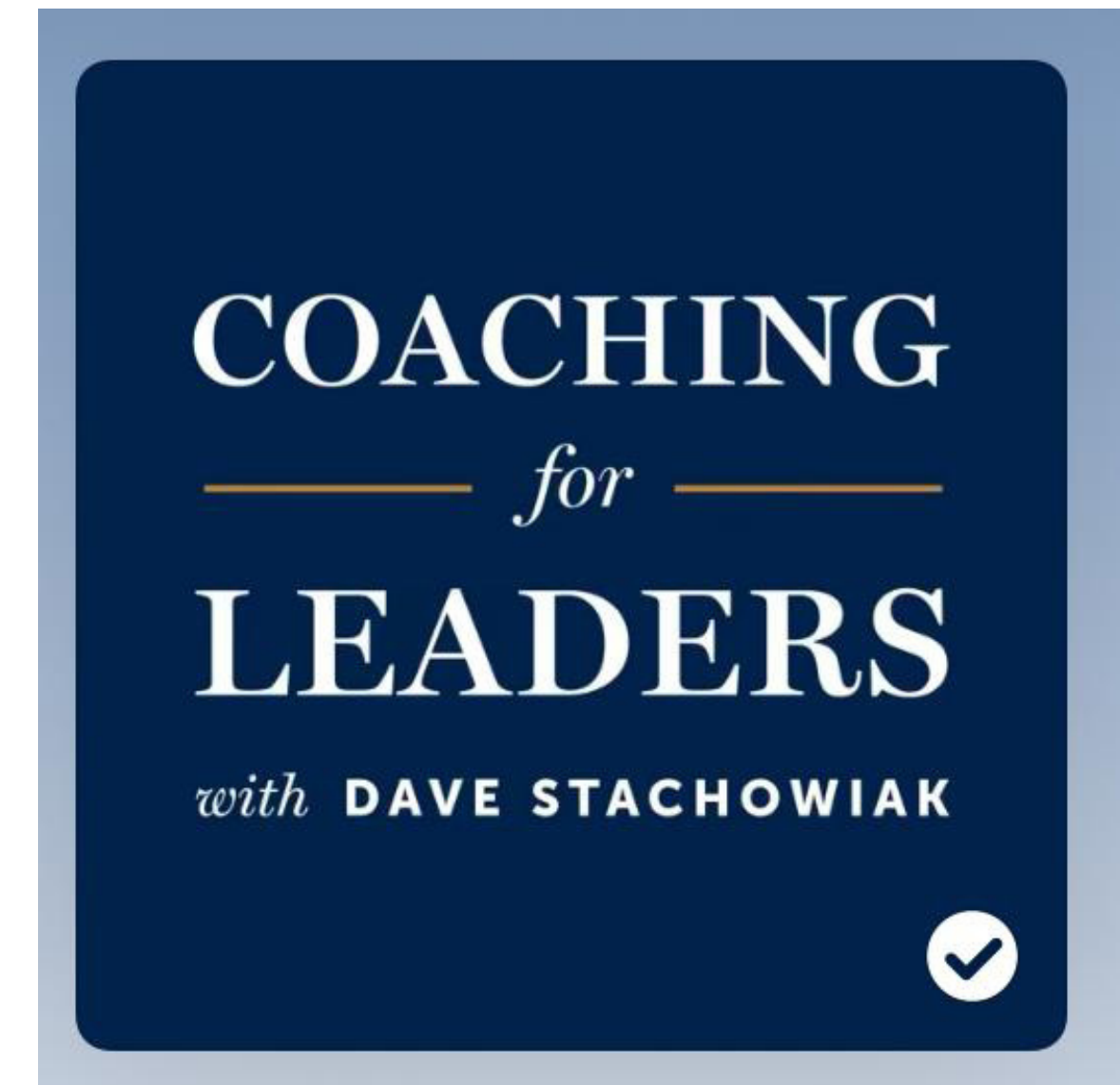


*"I'll pause for a moment so you can
let this information sink in."*

“Pocket Update”

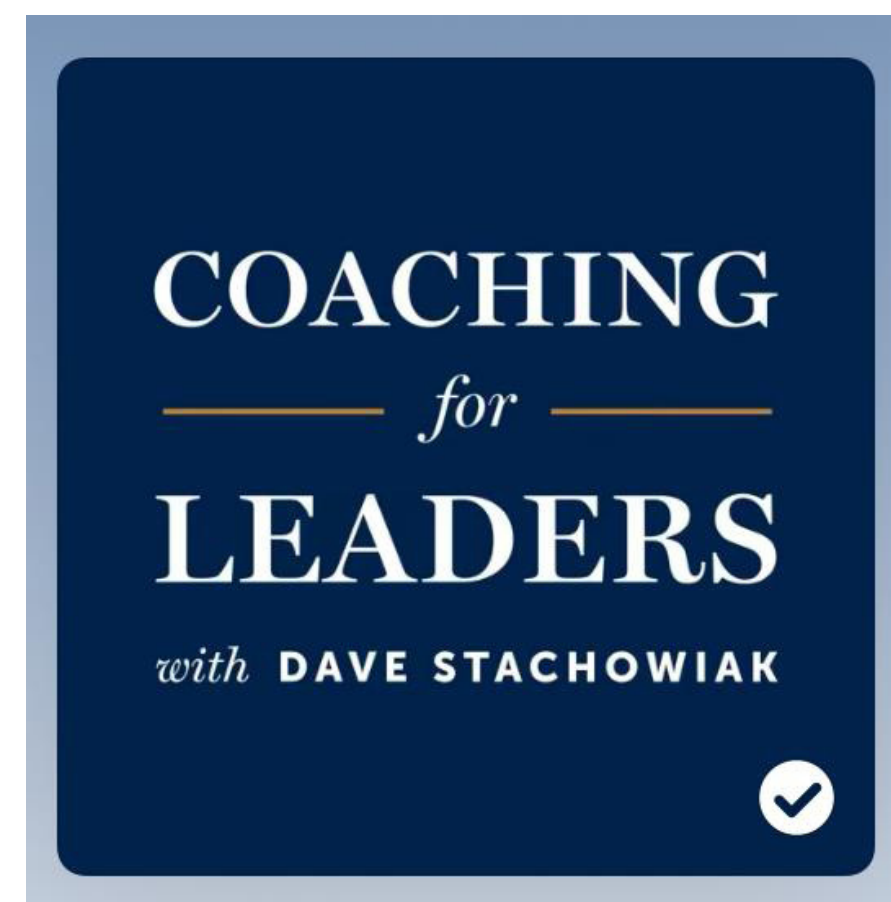
3-Step pocket update

1. Project
2. Detail
3. Result



- Marketing: material needs
- Orientation staff: pre-arrival FAQs
- Student life: belonging questions
- Housing: worries about living
- Academics: Generational change
- Advising: Class registration concerns

Further Learning



Thoughts, Sharings, Q&A