



SCHOLARSHIP, COLLABORATION, AND SUPPORT:

How Achieve Atlanta's Scholarship and Services Substantially Increase College Persistence and Completion



WEDNESDAY,
NOV. 16, 2022



1:00PM -
2:00PM ET



**TINA
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Executive Director,
Achieve Atlanta



**SUSANNE
DIGGS-WILBORN**

VP, College Success
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**ALEXANDRA
BERNADOTTE**

Founder & CEO,
Beyond 12



**DR. JONATHAN
SMITH**

Associate Professor,
Georgia State University

Opening



Tina Fernandez

Executive Director,
Achieve Atlanta

Achieve Atlanta's Model



Korynn Schooley

VP, College Access,
Achieve Atlanta



Vision

Atlanta is a city where race and income no longer predict postsecondary success and upward mobility

Mission

Achieve Atlanta's mission is to help APS students access, afford, and earn postsecondary credentials

Our model centers on building cross-sector collaborations across the college completion pipeline

Grades 11-12

Postsecondary

Improve College
Access

Improve College
Affordability

Increase
College Success



Provide college advising to help students identify and access chosen postsecondary education



Help students understand the benefits and value of postsecondary education and help them pay for it through scholarships & grants



Provide coaching and navigational supports to help students persist and earn degrees



Achieve Atlanta engages students and families to ensure their experience and feedback inform how supports and services are provided and improved

Overview of Findings



Dr. Jonathan Smith

Associate Professor,
Georgia State University;
Georgia Policy Labs

Research Study Overview

- **Primary Research Questions**

- Does AATL scholarship and support impact college persistence and completion?
- Do any of the effects differ by students' high school GPA?
- Does AATL scholarship and support eligibility impact college enrollment?

- **Data**

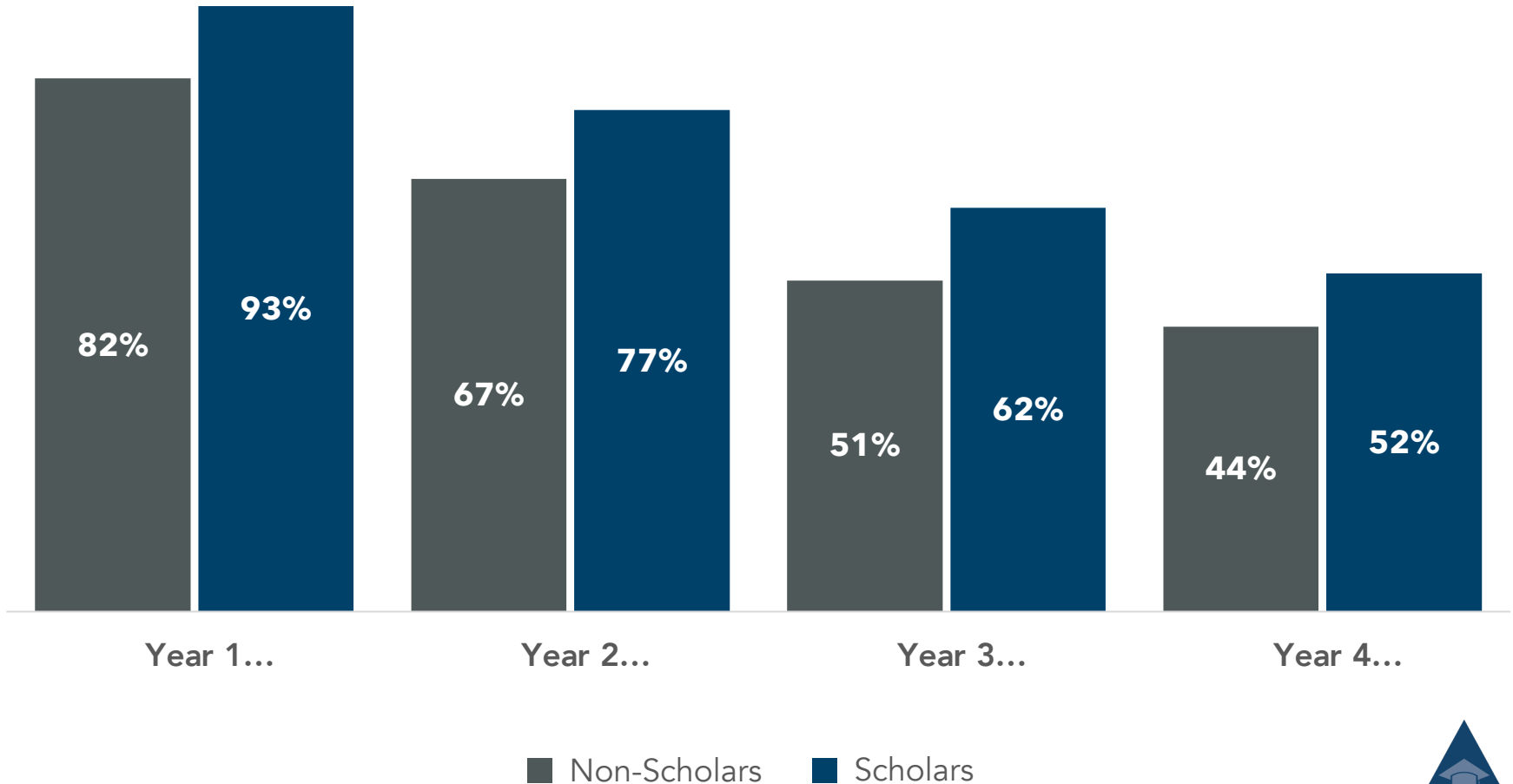
- APS student-level data
- AATL applicant and scholar data
- National Student Clearinghouse college enrollment data.

- **Primary Research Methods**

- Regression analyses, comparing scholars to non-scholars.
- Accounting for differences between groups, such as GPA, financial need, interest in AATL scholarship, college-going, etc.
- In some analyses, comparing nearly identical students, just above/below GPA eligibility threshold.

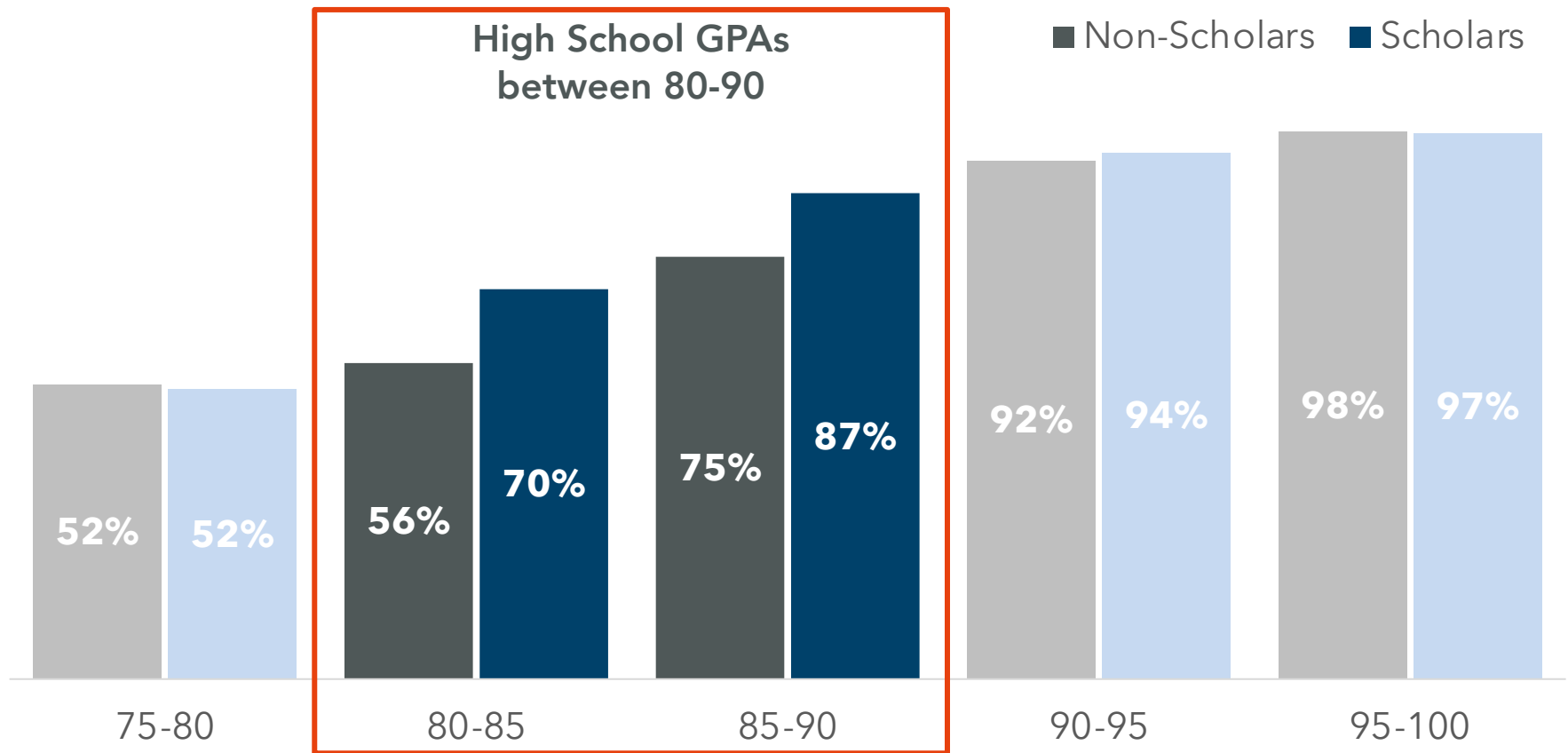
Beginning 2nd semester first year, AATL Scholars persist well above similar non-Scholar APS graduates who enroll in college. These gains last throughout four years.

College Persistence By Year/Term



Increases in persistence are concentrated among students with GPAs between 80-90, who are less likely to be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship.

Year 2 Fall Persistence Comparison between Scholars and Non-Scholars



Darker-colored bars = statistically significant difference b/w Non-Scholars and Scholars
Lighter-colored bars = not statistically significant difference b/w Non-Scholars and Scholars

Research Notes

- **College Enrollment** – Did not increase for students just above the scholarship eligibility threshold, compared to those just below.
 - This aligns with prior research on similar programs.
- **Implications** – Achieve Atlanta helps students achieve academic success, but more to consider and learn.
- **Future Research** – Grant-funded research-practice partnership to examine Achieve Atlanta's impact on Scholar financial wellness and incorporate student voice

Panel: Putting the Findings Into Context



Susanne Diggs-Wilborn

Moderator

VP, College Success,
Achieve Atlanta



Brittney Bartholomew

Program Coordinator,
Kennesaw State University



Alexandra Bernadotte

Founder & CEO,
Beyond 12



Dr. Jonathan Smith

Associate Professor, Georgia
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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!



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