Inquiring minds want to know... what data can show

The push for improved collection, analysis and sharing of data on student outcomes isn't just something for number crunchers to care about. Robust and well-integrated systems for student records can help answer important questions in the minds of individuals from a variety of groups. For example:

- "What is this college's graduation rate for students like me?"
- "Does the performance of certain groups of students lag that of other groups? Why?"
- "How many degrees are being granted here, and how many graduates remain in the state?"
- "What proportion of our graduates go on to college?"
- "Is this institution or academic program producing job-ready graduates?"
- "What trouble spots am I likely to encounter in this course of study?"
- "What can we offer to assist these students?"
- "How well do our colleges foster student success?"
- "Are they making a smooth transition to college?"
- "Are the colleges in our state or region meeting workforce needs?"
- "What sort of help can this college offer if I do encounter trouble?"
- "How effective is this assistance, and how might we improve it?"
- "Is the money we appropriate for financial aid being used to best effect?"
- "Do certain groups of students succeed at higher rates than others?"
- "What specific gaps need to be filled?"
- "Are graduates of this college (or academic program) getting good jobs?"
- "When a student drops out, where does he or she go?"
- "Is access to post-secondary education available to all qualified residents?"
- "What college-prep programs can we provide, and which ones work best?"
- "Which institutions might best fill those gaps?"

Students | College faculty and administrators | State policymakers | High school teachers and administrators | Employers and workforce boards