

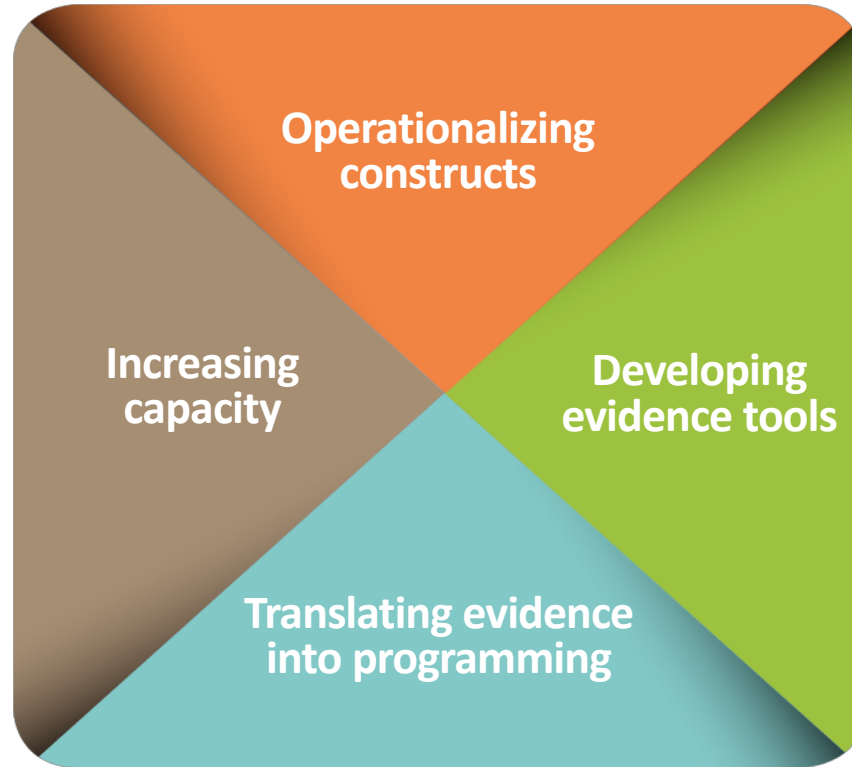
# Examining belonging pathways across diverse institutions to understand belonging at your school

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# Wellbeing Collaborative



# Agenda

- Why does school belonging matter for students?
- Wellbeing Assessment findings
  - Relationship between belonging and:
    - School characteristics (Size, public/private, region)
    - Individual characteristics (Age, GPA, intersectionality)
- Group discussion of implications for practice & future research (intermittent)

# Why does school belonging matter?



*Thinking from a student's perspective, what does it mean to **belong** at your school?*

***Can someone like me belong here?***

# Concerns relevant to belonging



- Connection
  - Are there people here whom I can connect to?
- Value
  - Do people here value (people like) me?
- Alignment
  - Is this a setting in which I want to belong?

# Pathways to school belonging

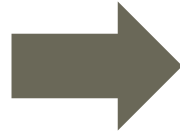


*Joey tries to teach his pet rock how to swim.*

# Belonging pathways & outcomes

## Pathway items

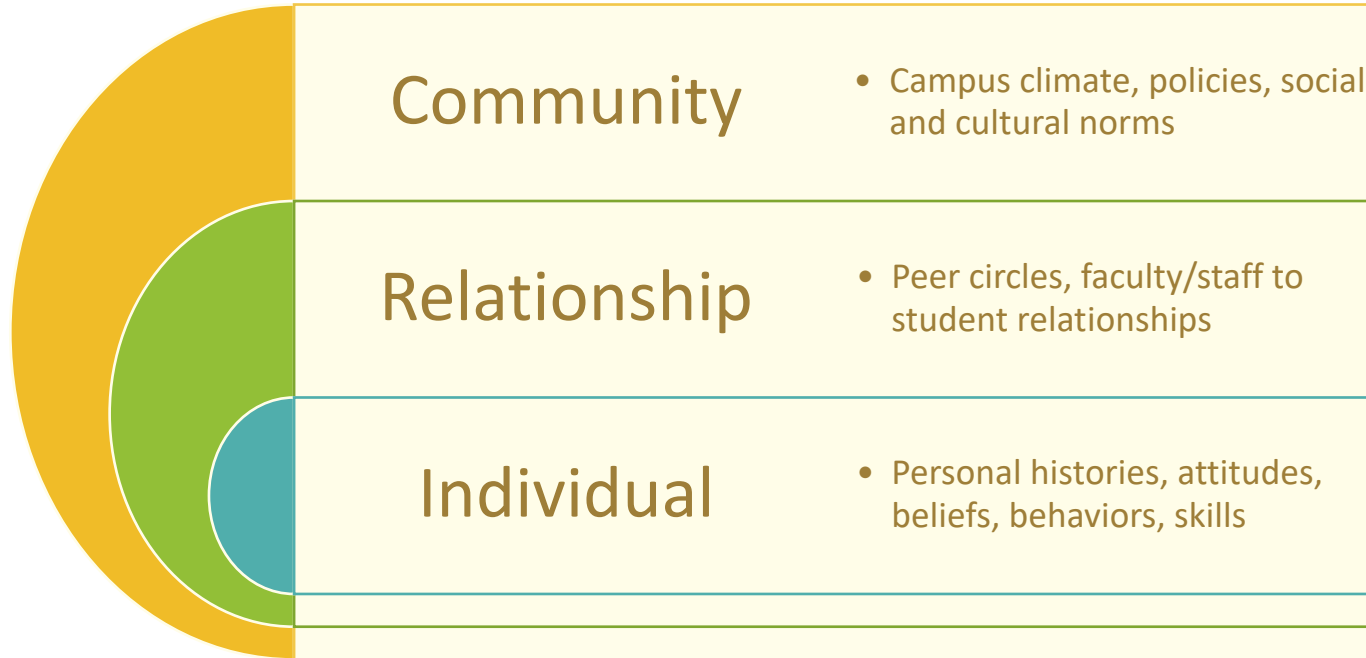
- Faculty or staff help
- Friends help
- People are friendly to me
- Positive academic experiences
- Positive activity experiences



## Outcome items

- I feel a sense of belonging to my school
- I feel accepted at my school
- I feel included at my school

# Ecological model



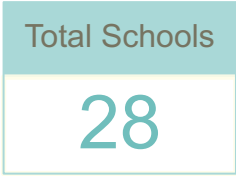
# Research Question

How do belonging pathways explain the effects of institutional and student variables on belonging?



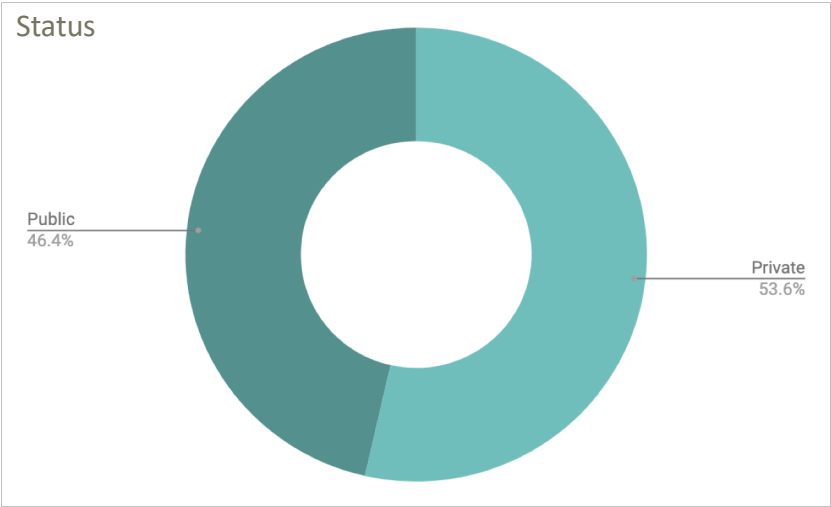
# Methods

# Sample makeup: School

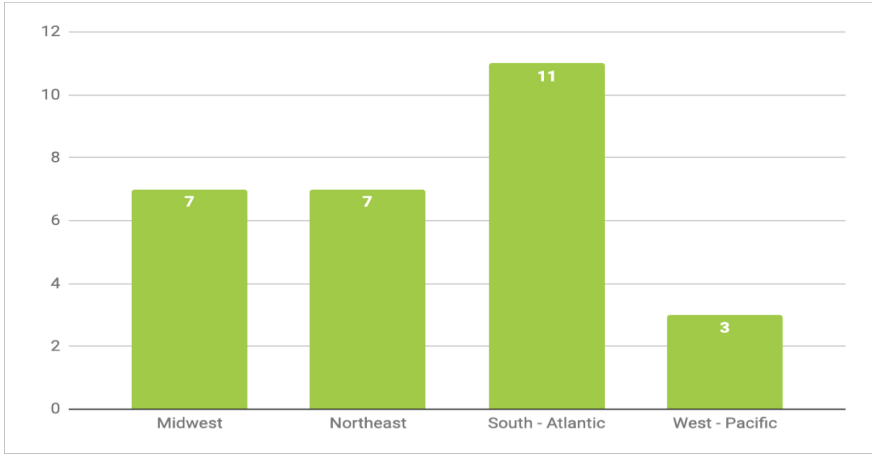


## Undergrad Enrollment

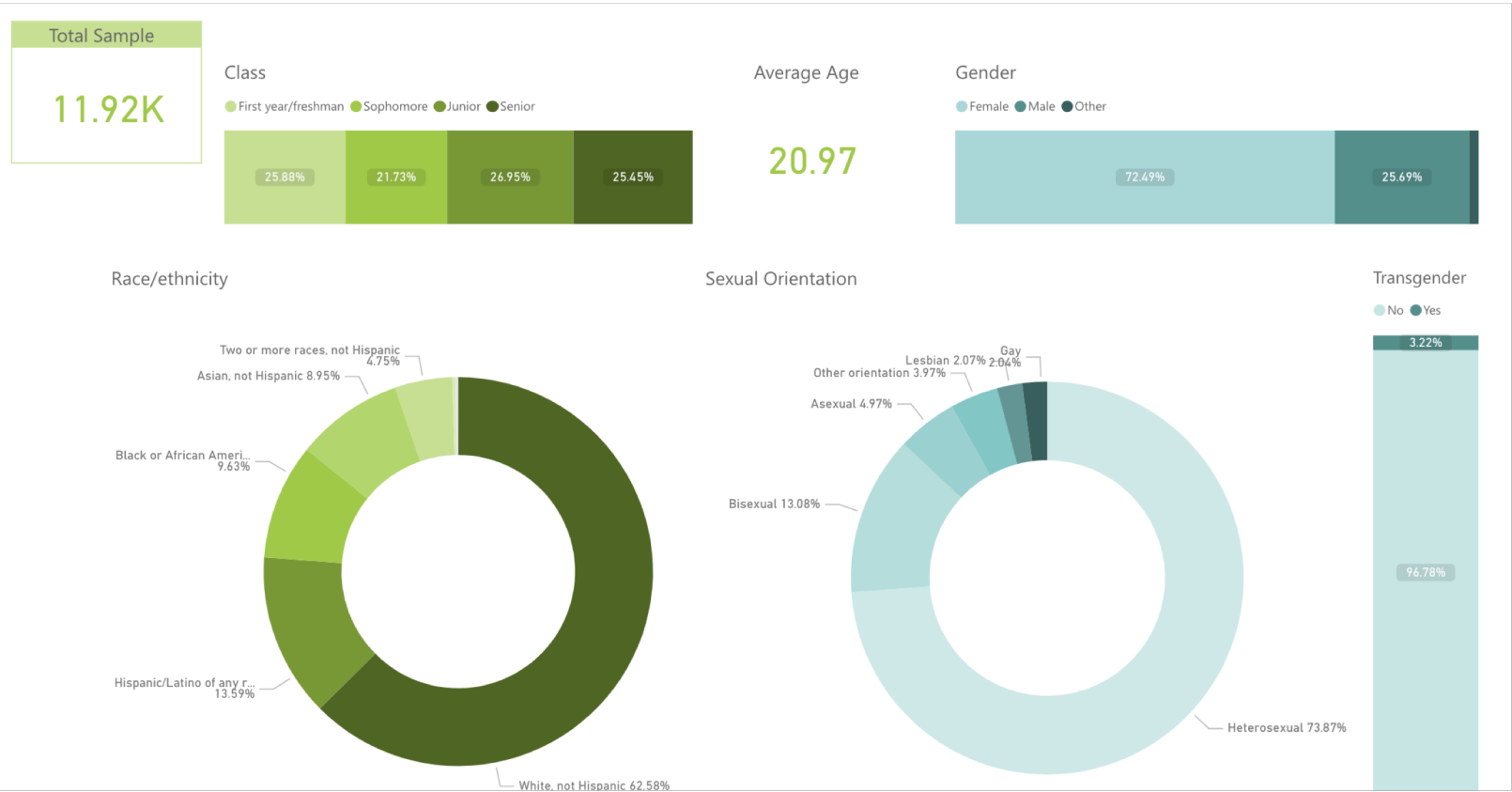
Median	4223
Range	30948
Min	824
Max	31772



## Region



# Sample makeup: Student



# Measures

## Belonging outcomes

- I feel a sense of belonging to my school
- I feel accepted at my school
- I feel included at my school

## Belonging pathways

- There are faculty or staff who help me feel like I belong at my school.
- I would have to change myself in order to feel like I fit in at my school.
- People at my school are friendly toward me.
- I belong to a group of friends at my school who are important to me.
- I regularly participate in at least one activity that helps me feel like I belong.
- The academic experiences I have had at my school help me feel like I belong.
- There are campus programs and events that help me feel like I belong at my school.

## Student characteristics

- GPA
- Age
- # of historically marginalized/ underrepresented identities held
  - *Non-cisgender*
  - *Transgender*
  - *Non-heterosexual*
  - *Non-White*

## School characteristics

- Size (Undergrad enrollment)
- Public/ Private
- Region

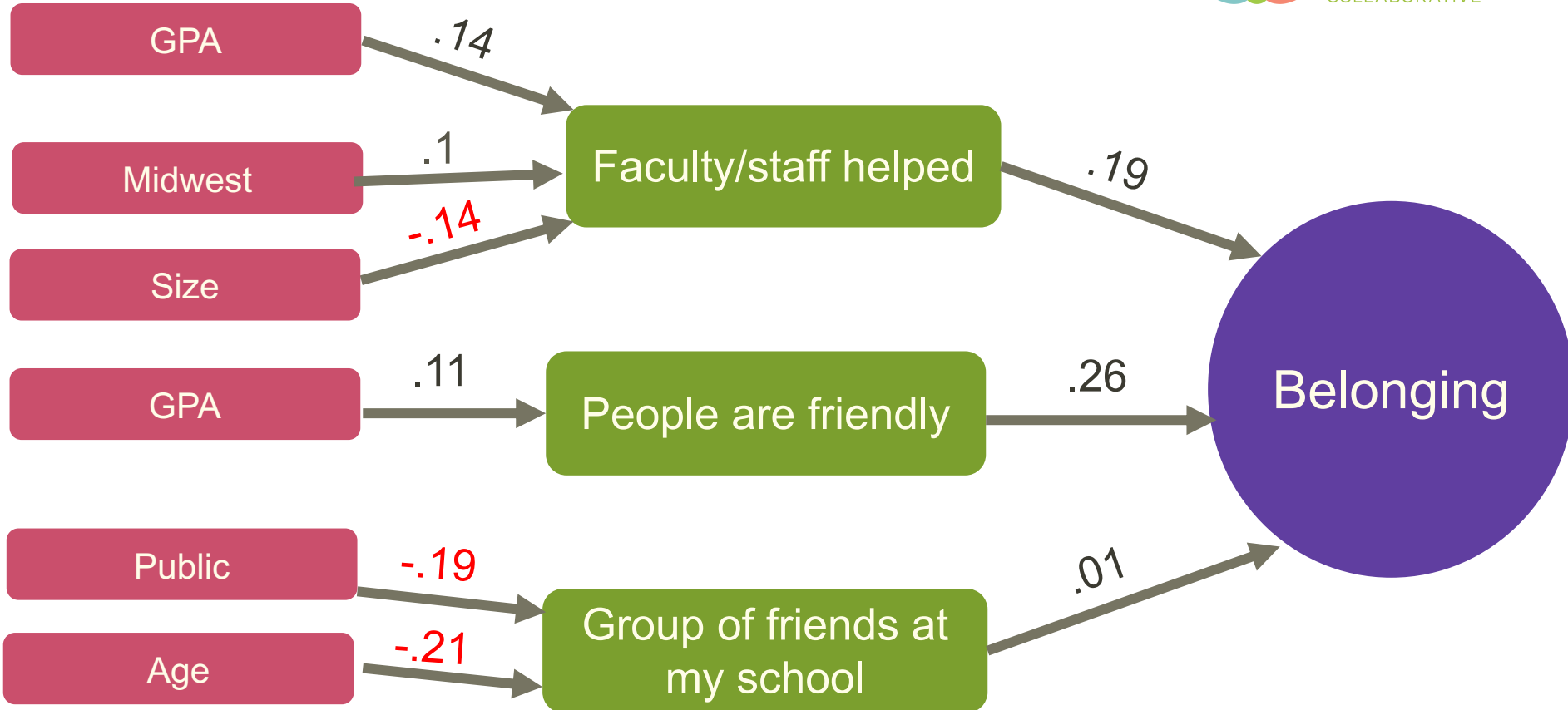
# Analyses

- Mplus
  - MLR (for FIML and robust errors)
  - RMSEA  $\leq .05$ , CFI  $\geq .95$ , SRMR  $\leq .05$
- Multi-step structural equation modeling (SEM)
- Results are standardized (STDYX)

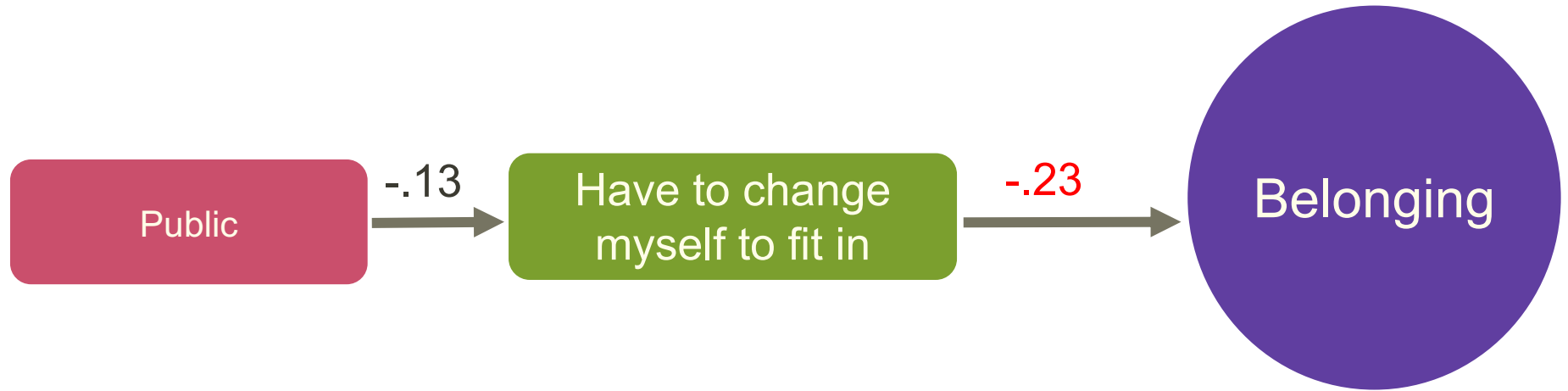
A large, teal-colored arrow pointing to the right, with a white chevron shape cut out of its left side.

# Results

# Are there people here I can connect to?

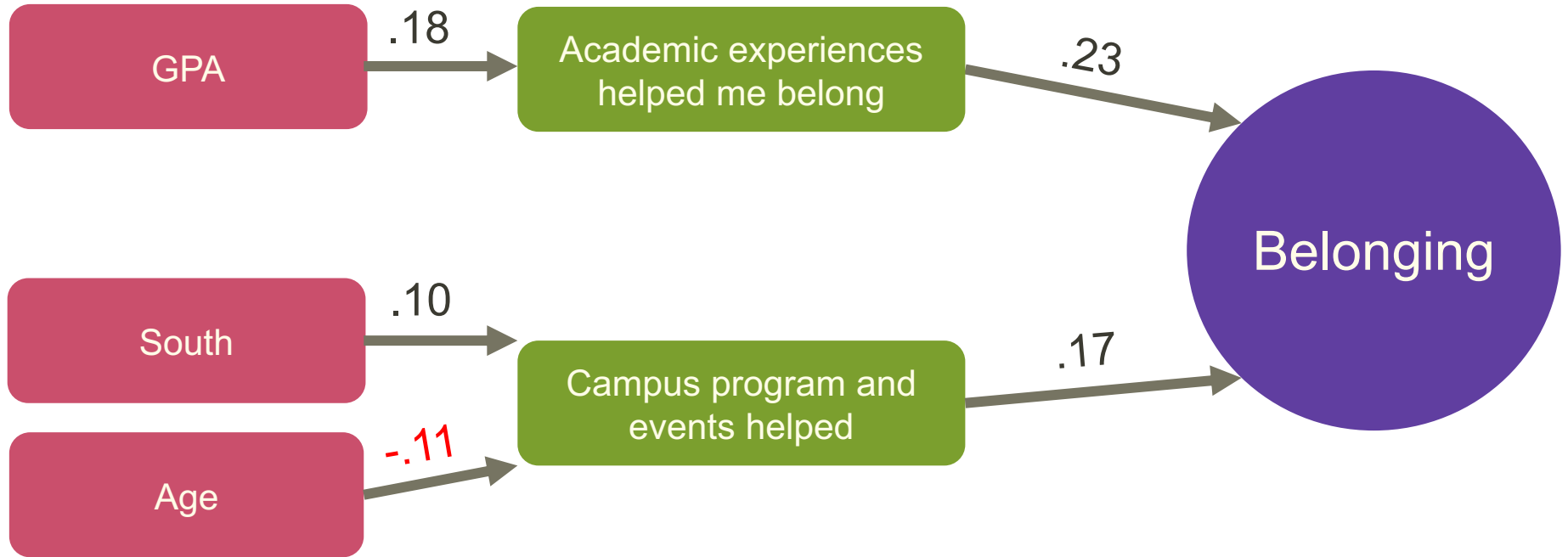


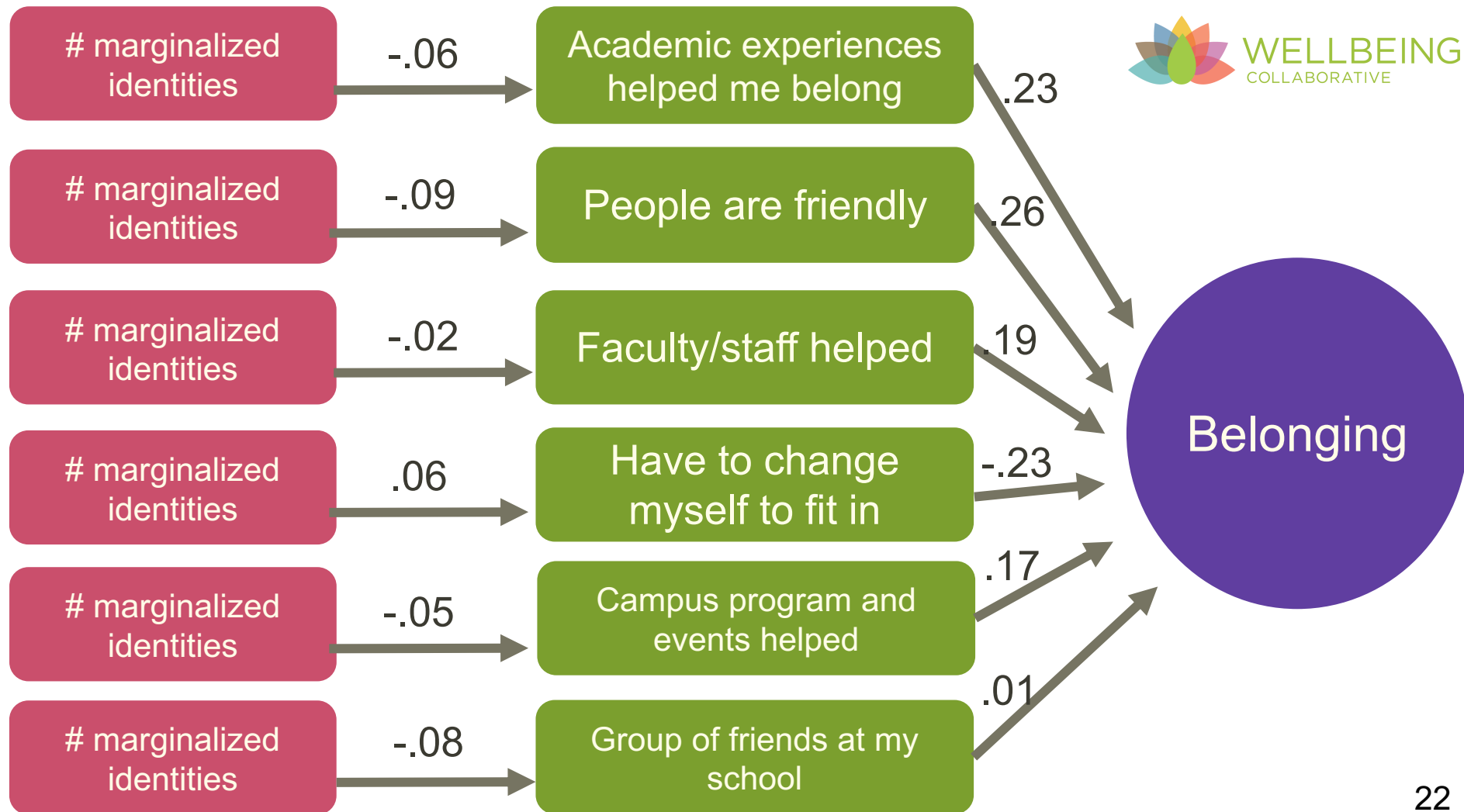
# *Do people here value people like me?*





# *Is this a setting in which I want to belong?*





# Future Directions

- Do schools in different regions show different pathway relationships?
- Do campus composition statistics play a role?
- Do the pathways differ based on the time of the semester?
- What questions do you think we should look at?

# Thank you for attending!

## Connect!

- [WellbeingCollaborative.wfu.edu](https://WellbeingCollaborative.wfu.edu)
- Email: [gaudec18@wfu.edu](mailto:gaudec18@wfu.edu)

## Join!

- Listserv
- Annual Wellbeing Assessment
- Annual Summer Learning Collaborative