

McLean County Community – College and Career Readiness Activities

Redefining the High School to College Transition in Illinois

Regional Work

- The Modeling Effective Collaboration on Common Core Standards Initiative, funded by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, engages regional partners, including the Dewitt/Livingston/McLean County Regional Office of Education, local school districts, Heartland Community College, and Illinois State University for the purposes of aligning K-12 and higher education curricula, standards, and pedagogy in math and English language arts (ELA).
 - As part of this work, a regional task force is aligning high school curriculum and expectations in ELA and math to determine vertical articulation as students develop college readiness skills.
 - The alignment task force is also working to develop a writing proficiency option in order for students to place in credit bearing courses in the post-secondary setting.
 - The Modeling Effective Collaboration is also working regionally to inform and prepare higher education faculty, especially general education faculty, around the new Illinois State Standards.
 - Lastly, the Modeling Effective Collaboration is working to infuse new content and pedagogy that address the new Illinois State Standards into teacher preparation programs and clinical practice.

More information about this initiative can be found at:

<http://education.illinoisstate.edu/csep/initiatives/#modeling> or by contacting Brad Hutchison at bkhutch@IllinoisState.edu

- Regionally, schools districts and Heartland Community College have been working to follow the Illinois Career Cluster framework.
 - In Unit #5 School District, 16 programs of study are aligned to Illinois Career Clusters and 2 career clusters (health sciences and agriculture) are articulated with Heartland Community College for year 13/14
- Illinois State University's Education Administration and Foundations (EAF) department has been working with ROE 17 and local school districts to build leadership capacity to support this work
 - The EAF department has formed a School Districts' Advisory Committee made up of University partners to assist with the recently redesigned Principal Preparation Program.
 - The EAF department is in the invitational stage of forming a University partnership to help with the redesign work of the Superintendent of Schools Licensure process.

Foundational Supports

- In Unit #5, currently students in grades 6-8 begin the college and career exploration process with developing their own Individualized Learning Plans (ILP) electronically through the Career Cruising Portal. Using 1:1 devices they take career interest inventories and skill assessments to help them determine their interests that match a career cluster. The career information along with goal setting, achievement results are all part of their career portfolio that will follow them through grades 12. Career cruising is customizing a portal that will house scholarship opportunities for students preparing for college. There is also a college information night and a regional career expo for students in grades 6-8.
- In high school in Unit #5, college and career advising continues by developing four year plans. The electronic portfolio will evolve including artifacts such as resume, extra-curricular,

achievements, products created in courses, volunteer experiences, etc. There are college nights offered each year per school. Colleges visit weekly providing information about the respective college.

- Heartland Community College offers college and career advising, planning, and financial aid systems aligned across high school and postsecondary institutions, which include:
 - Guided Path to Success: A series of workshops offered in the high schools that focus on study skills, financial literacy, time management, etc. Students can earn college credit by completing assessments tied to the workshops.
 - Guidance Counselor Day: We invite high school counselors to campus for a day to discuss issues of common concern.

“Catch-up” Models

- In Unit #5, an exploring math course is offered to senior students. This is designed to ensure students have skills to meet benchmark math expectations to enter credit bearing courses through alignment with COMPASS test criteria. Credit recovery is offered in Unit #5 throughout the year and in the summer, supported by a United Way of McLean County grant, to ensure students are on track for graduation and have opportunities to remediate immediately following failed course. High school students in Unit #5 take COMPASS test in their sophomore or junior year if they are attempting to qualify for dual credit and the district is planning to expand this opportunity to all juniors.
- Heartland Community College offers an approach to developmental education aligned across high school and postsecondary institutions that seeks to minimize the amount of remediation at postsecondary institutions, including:
 - High school and community college co-designed courses for ELA and math
 - a. Meetings among high school and HCC faculty to align curriculum and identify expectations, work that occurred through the Modeling Effective Collaboration Initiative (mentioned earlier)
 - b. High school faculty teaching in College Now (Dual Credit) program develop a clear understanding of what is needed in the high school curriculum to prepare students for college courses.
 - c. MATH09x (developmental math) as 4th year in Tri-Valley, Bloomington, Unit 5 and Regional Alternative School
 - Movement of testing for development education down to high school
Offer Compass testing in all district high schools for placement into College Now courses.
 - Embedded assessments to determine placement in developmental courses delivered as part of high school courses
 - Multiple factors for determining placement into developmental education (e.g., ACT, SAT, Compass, PARCC, Alternative Writing Exam, Alternative Reading Exam)
 - Redesign of remediation at community college with focus on co-requisite remediation (e.g., ENGL 099/101 is co-requisite model)

“Speed-up” Models

- Unit #5 offers several advanced learning options, including 17 AP courses and 8 Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) dual credit courses aligned with HCC. Students who attend BACC for CTE courses have additional dual credit options that are aligned with the region. Two career clusters (health sciences and agriculture) are articulated with HCC for year 13/14. Unit #5 is also

actively pursuing an internship model that allows students exposure to careers aligned with their high school and career/college interests.

- Heartland Community College offers extensive AP and/or dual credit opportunities in core academic courses and targeted career pathway areas
 - a. College Now (Dual Credit) from AY12-13 to AY14-15
 - i. increased from 23 courses to 115
 - ii. increased headcount from 348 to 1,342
 - iii. increased number of high school partners from 8 to 15. Plan to add one more in AY15-16
 - b. Area Career Centers
 - i. Added Bloomington Area Career Center and Livingston Area Career Centers in AY13-14
 - ii. Plan to add Lincolnland Technical Education Center in AY15-16
- Heartland Community College also offers program of study models articulated across high schools and postsecondary institutions in career pathway areas based on local economic development need. They have identified HCC's career and technical programs that can begin in the high school (mostly completed) and have developed complete programs of study for Perkins Model on Nursing, Manufacturing Technology, and Administrative Office Professional.