Early College Credit Program Inventory Summary of Results
August 2016

In May and June of 2016, community colleges in the Northern Illinois regional P-20 Network were asked to complete an inventory regarding their early college credit programs. The survey was designed to better understand the opportunities students have for full time dual enrollment in high school and college. Questions were asked about three specific kinds of programs.

- **Dual degree/Running Start** – Programs where students earn both a high school diploma and an associate’s degree. Eight of the ten institutions that responded indicated a dual degree type program
  - Four of the ten institutions offer a Running Start or other dual degree program for students – Elgin Community College, Highland Community College, Illinois Valley Community College, Rock Valley College
  - A fifth institution is developing such a program – McHenry County College
  - Enrollment in dual degree programs seems to be increasing over enrollment in certificate programs.

- **Diploma and professional certificates** – Programs where students earn both a high school diploma and a professional certificate
  - CNA certificate programs are available at most of the institutions offering credits resulting in a certificate.
  - Enrollment in certificate programs is currently higher than in dual degree programs.
  - Certificate programs have – generally – been established for a longer period of time than dual degree programs.

- **Other full time dual enrollment** – Programs where students have the opportunity for full time dual enrollment, but may complete the program without having earned an associate’s degree or professional certificate upon completion of a high school diploma

The survey did not ask about other dual credit opportunities that students have while in high school, nor did it gather information about articulated credit opportunities. Ten of eleven P-20 Network community colleges completed the inventory. Responses varied widely in completeness. In addition to the specific results mentioned above, a few general observations could be made about the results.

- Cost to the student, school district, and the community college vary across community college districts.
- All of the programs have an application process for students that includes a GPA and teacher recommendation component.
- Faculty requirements for teaching courses for dual degree or other full time dual enrollment programs are more rigorous in the formal education component than certificate programs.