Student Support Services Work Group

June 7, 2016 2:00-3:30 pm
Northern Illinois University, Lowden Hall, Room 304
Call in Number – 815-753-0016

Attendees: Marilyn Bellert (NIU), Amy Franklin (NIU), Brian Lance (NIU), Debbie Pixton (NIU), Donna Schoenfeld (NIU), Flecia Thomas (MCC), Eric Weldy (NIU)

Notes
- House Bill 5729 passed the legislature as the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act; it now awaits Governor Rauner’s signature
  - Purpose: improve readiness of students to succeed in college and the workforce
  - No mandates for adoption; action is either required of state agencies of subject to voluntary participation
  - Four major activities; three may have implications for this work group
    ▪ Establish a College and Career Expectations Framework (PaCE) – Could be incorporated into elements of our Building a College Going Culture Plan
    ▪ Define high school coursework and criteria that will place students into college credit-bearing coursework – primarily an articulation issue
    ▪ Provide for College and Career Pathway endorsements on high school diplomas – something for this group to watch based on how many schools in the region move in this direction; there may be a need to support counselors/advisors and others in this initiative. There’s also the possibility that colleges/universities could offer scholarships based on these endorsements, which would have implications for financial aid.
    ▪ Develop a pilot for competency-based high school graduation requirements – again dependent on how many high schools decide to take this on; may be an area where we could offer support to admissions, counselors and advisors
      - An implementation plan is expected before the end of June. We will share the plan with the group and consider the implications.
- Strengthen data sharing and use across institutions in coordination with the Illinois Longitudinal Data System.
  - At the next meeting Debbie will share the results of NIU’s latest transfer student survey
  - Amy Franklin and Debbie will review the original needs assessment data to determine what data needs are embedded in that survey
- Determine most meaningful ways to support and maintain an ongoing connection among professionals who support peer mentoring programs
  - Research – survey is open until June 15; a report should be ready before the next meeting
  - Conference planning – still looking for session proposals; deadline extended to June 24
• Collaborate with ISAC, Econ Illinois, and other interested partners in developing a plan to increase the FAFSA completion rate by high school students in the region.
  o The plan for increasing FAFSA completion rates has evolved to focus on how communities can build a College-Going Culture
  o Edits to the plan include clarifying the treatment audience, providing contextualizing information at the outset, more incorporation of the PaCE framework, providing definitions and templates for communications pieces
  o After a new version is polished by a graphic designer, we will share it with focus groups in communities (Flecia offered to do this in McHenry) and see what their feedback is – if and how they would use it.
  o ISAC should be approached to find out if they would help circulate this information at their events.
  o There is a possibility that NIU would do a communications with non-school based organizations in partnership with ISAC to provide supports and begin a process for getting the word out (“A message from NIU, your regional university”

• Next Steps
  o Submit peer mentoring conference session proposals at https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1KUunNiB4x2V22V
  o Debbie will work on a new draft of the college-going culture plan and have it polished by a graphic designer
  o Request new data from ISAC as of July 1 for FAFSA completion rates
  o Amy Franklin and Debbie will review the original needs assessment data to determine other data needs
  o Debbie will disseminate the results of the transfer student survey once available
  o Next meetings
    • July 28, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Lowden Hall 304
    • August 15, 2:30 – 4:00 pm, Lowden Hall 304

Meeting materials
Documents related to this topic are posted (or will be posted) online at www.niu.edu/p20network. Click on the Work Groups tab and then on the Student Support Services Work Group under Meetings and Materials. Feel free to send links to other documents that you recommend for this group to Debbie Pixton (dpixton@niu.edu).

Location and Parking
Lowden Hall (across from the castle building) is on the south side of the College Drive cul-de-sac and a 5 minute walk from Visitors Parking. Free parking is available in the Visitors Lot south of the Holmes Student Center. Tell the attendant that you are attending a P-20 Network meeting, so that you are not charged.

Goal: Coordinate student support systems across institutions to ease transitions and increase success.
2016 Objectives and Deliverables

- Strengthen data sharing and use across institutions in coordination with the Illinois Longitudinal Data System.
  - List metrics and purposes for additional data collection.
  - Report progress on the development and implementation of the action plan.

- Determine most meaningful ways to support and maintain an ongoing connection among professionals who support peer mentoring programs
  - Report on results of the conference and make recommendations for any next steps.
  - Report data on the needs of facilitators and participants in peer mentoring programs and make recommendations for next steps.

- Collaborate with ISAC, Econ Illinois, and other interested partners in developing a plan to increase the FAFSA completion rate by high school students in the region.
  - Present plan for consideration by local schools, community colleges, and community agencies.