Northern Illinois Regional P-20 Network
Student Support Services Work Group

July 14, 2015, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Northern Illinois University
Altgeld Hall, Room 203
Call in Number – (815) 753-0019

Attendees:
Dr. Eric Weldy (NIU), Amy Franklin (NIU), Beth Metzler (NIU and ECON), Paul Crawford (NIU),
Dr. Melinda James (Waubonsie College), Dustin Seeman (D214: Phone Contact), Lucy Parker
(NIU Graduate Assistant)

- Financial Education Update—Beth Metzler, Econ Illinois and Paul Crawford, NIU
  - Beth- Spoke with Dr. Thomas about the importance of the language of the site
  - Paul- Though site is not website ready, clarification has been made for: Purpose of Site, Financial Literacy Vocabulary, Various Site Images (i.e. Triangle) and Website Concepts
  - Paul- Conceptualized the needs and demographic of viewers by looking at a triangle (i.e. similar to Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs Triangle); We can call this Financial Literacy or anything we want...
  - Paul spoke with Brian Walks’s team and made the content on the triangle
  - Have two images of focus: 1.) Triangle and 2.) Rows with Links
  - This triangle is more user friendly (i.e. has name adaptions as well) and has various levels
  - The Rows with Links image of Paul’s document has been changed to click on in website have also been adjusted with language
    i. For example: Titles will be reversed (i.e. BASIC: Elementary NOT ELEMENTARY: Basic)
    ii. Beth then stated that: links will be within paragraphs and will be worded more with educational terminology than career oriented terminology
    iii. This way these labels are applicable for all audiences
    iv. A change was added to the Learning Goals in the last sentence in the second image (The Rows with Links image) to state: “Longer term goals may require that you invest in yourself to build education, experience, and wealth over time.”
    v. Goals will be continued for Paul’s document and the 2 images to make this easier to read
1. For example: The different colored words in The Rows with Links Image will be changed to be less WorkNet Focused and more Educational Focused

2. Beth and Paul want to incorporated this website to be like a flow-chart (i.e. similar to the WebMD set-up) to be more user friendly

- **Beth**-Website is sorted by resources, but can also be collated by grouping and/or filtering of material
- **Amy**- Suggestion to make the website easier and more inclusive to demographics who are less familiar of content
  - Example was about the addition of a Financial Library and/or Mini Financial Library
    - A Mini Library was referenced by Beth that will have levels
      1. For each level a filter will be made and viewers can click on whatever they want and can unclick on items they do not want in their search (i.e. Though Postsecondary Link cannot be broken down further, all things will be tagged in postsecondary, to make this link more inclusive)
- **Paul**- Next Goal: Incorporate ways to create a pathway/curriculum/etc. for people to easily navigate the website without being overwhelmed with information
  - **These ideas will be proposed to the larger group for idea exchange and possibilities**

- **Discussion about Next Steps from Needs Assessment Surveys: Dr. Weldy**

- Dr. Weldy stated: That due to time constraints (because the Large Group Meeting is September 9th, 2015 at the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center) we should do a Small Group Meeting to work on the Next Steps and to review/work on the Transfer Student Support Survey (i.e. which Dana Gautcher has been working on)
  - The small group will include:
    1. Dr. Weldy, Dr. Thomas, Amy Franklin, Dr. James (and/or Nancy Partch and/or Sue Martin), and Dana Gautcher?
    2. Lucy created a doodle poll to arrange a time for the Small Group to meet and finish and/or compose the Next Steps Items:
       - Student Support Services—Community Colleges
       - Student Support Services—School Districts
       - Financial Education—Community Colleges
       - Financial Education—School Districts
  - **After this Small Group Meets, will then connect with Articulation Group**

- **Updates on Items of Preparation for September Meeting (see pg. 2)**
  - **Beth**- Stated ECON may be able to help with Objective 1.) “Build a comprehensive, coordinated student support system...” and to do a smaller group intervention
  - **Paul**- Stated he will be focusing on Objective 2.) “Build a comprehensive menu of financial literacy activities for P-20 students and families...”
• Post Conference Meeting- will be focusing on Objective 3.)” Organize a Northern Illinois Regional Network of peer mentors...”

- Northern Illinois Regional Peer Mentoring Conference (June 16, NIU Naperville), post conference feedback meeting scheduled (7/22)
- Next steps
  - August Meeting for the Large Group will be: August 13th (Time Pending)
  - Meeting for Small Group will be: TBD (TBD Using Doodle Created 7/14)

**Meeting materials**
Documents related to this topic are posted (or will be posted) online at [www.niu.edu/p20network](http://www.niu.edu/p20network). Click on the Resources 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 Amy Franklin ([afranklin@niu.edu](mailto:afranklin@niu.edu)).

**Location and Parking**
Altgeld Hall (the castle building) is on the north 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.
Always in Mind

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

White House Commitments

- Assess student support services to identify gaps and develop needed interventions.
- Develop a comprehensive menu of financial literacy activities for P-20 students and families.
- Embark on a regional peer mentoring initiative for 400 high-need, pre-college and freshmen students with 80 peer mentors.

Next Steps to Meet September Objectives

- Build a comprehensive, coordinated student support system that includes “soft skills” training, orientation courses such as UNIV 101, course advising, career planning, counseling and coaching, financial literacy, financial aid advising, impact of current choices on life, systems navigation, and mentoring.
  - Dive deep into the data collected through the needs assessments of community college and school district faculty to identify programming strengths that should be shared and programming gaps for the group to address. Share a summary of aggregated results with network institutions.
  - Develop a plan with recommendations for addressing gaps or coordinating services in areas of need.
- Build a comprehensive menu of financial literacy activities for P-20 students and families.
  - Analyze and synthesize data collected through the financial education survey administered to both community colleges and school districts to identify most needed and most valued resources and programs. Share a summary of aggregated results with network institutions.
  - Plan and implement posting of an online database of these resources.
  - Develop a communications plan and promotional materials (print and electronic) that promote knowledge of personal finance, financial decision-making, and post-secondary financial aid as well as better connect resources and services with the students and families who would benefit from them the most.
- Organize a northern Illinois regional network of peer mentors who receive training and support to increase the success of students in high school and college.
  - Convene identified NIU, community college, and school district faculty and staff who support mentoring programs at their institutions for planning a regional conference in June or early fall 2015.
  - Deliver a regional conference that offers sessions on different types of mentoring and sharing of successes and challenges in existing programs.
  - Launch a mentoring project with 80 peer mentors and 400 at-risk high school and post-secondary students in fall 2015.