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

August 13th, 2015, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Northern Illinois University
Altgeld Hall, Room 212
Call in Number – (815) 753-0014

Agenda

- Discussion about Small Group Recommendations for September Executive Meeting
  o 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.
- Discussion about Goal #2; Update & Recommendations for September Meeting
  o Build a comprehensive menu of financial literacy activities for P-20 students and families.
- Discussion about Next Steps for Peer Mentoring Goal (#3)
  o 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.
- Other Items
  o Interest in future efforts of SSS Work Group

Meeting materials
Documents related to this topic are posted (or will be posted) online at 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).

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.