Welcome!

Doug Baker
President, Northern Illinois University
The Regional P-20 Network is part of the solution

- College and Career Readiness is a complex, systemic problem

- Almost 90 volunteers from 30 institutions are collaborating to strengthen student pathways and transitions

- Our large-scale efforts are beginning to yield results
White House Summit on College Access
December 4, 2015

- Regional P-20 Network
  - Doug Baker (NIU), Ehren Jarrett (RPS 205), David Sam (ECC), John Rico (Rico Enterprises, Illinois Workforce Investment Board)

- Northwest Education Council for Student Success (NECSS)
  - Ken Ender (Harper), Cynthia Garcia (NECSS), Dan Cates (Palatine 211), Dave Schuler (Arlington Hts. 214)

- Illinois Community College Board - Brian Durham
Springfield Update

What is your organization doing now that aligns with the agenda of the Regional P-20 Network?

- Jeff Mays, Illinois Department of Employment Security
- Chris Koch, Superintendent, Illinois State Board of Education
- Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board
- John Rico, Illinois Workforce Investment Board
Work Group Reports
Laurie Elish-Piper

- Articulation - Anne Birberick, NIU Vice-Provost
- Student Support Services - Eric Weldy, NIU Vice-President for Student Services and Enrollment Management
- Alignment of Standards - Laurie Elish-Piper, NIU Presidential Advisor on College and Career Readiness
- Adult Learners - Meryl Sussman, NIU Assistant Vice-President, Adult and Non-Credit Programming
- P-3 Initiative - Laurie Elish-Piper
Articulation
Summary of Progress

Anne Birberick, Ph.D., Vice Provost
Articulation Work Group

- **Goal:** Create seamless transitions across the educational continuum

- **White House Commitment:** Advise policy makers on simplifying transfer of credit procedures and reducing redundancy of coursework
  - Development of a policy paper is underway.

- **Participation:** 18 representatives from 11 institutions
Articulation Work Group
Objective 1 - Articulation Decisions

> Policy Paper Outline

> National context: moving from content-based knowledge to skills-based knowledge and applications; i.e. learning objectives

> Local context: IAI panels are due for evaluation and rethinking

> Current IAI panels vary significantly in focus

> Sample models: Lumina Degree Qualification Profile, AAC&U Quality Collaboration Project
Articulation Work Group

Objective 2: Guided Pathways

- Objective 2: Guided pathways across three levels
  - Aviation
  - Nursing
  - Manufacturing

- Objective 2: Reverse Transfer Agreements
  - 6 reverse transfer agreements are implemented and students informed
    - Lake County, Kishwaukee, McHenry, Oakton, Rock Valley, and Waubonsee
  - 6 agreements are in process
  - 6 more colleges have indicated interest
Articulation Work Group
Objectives 3, 4

- **Objective 3: CCSS Implementation**
  - Faculty participation in panels validating PARCC items
  - Preparation for more validation and placement studies when PARCC results are available

- **Objective 4: Establish relationship with Illinois P-20 Council**
  - This network is on the Council’s agenda in April
Illinois Regional ePortfolio Partnership

Description
- Partnership for using ePortfolios to increase student success, articulate competencies between institutions, and share strategies for achieving organizational goals

Purpose and Objectives
- Assess college and career readiness
- Facilitate transfer using ePortfolios
- Develop a case for adopting ePortfolios across the Illinois system
- Foster inter-institution articulation

Next Steps - Need action from community college leaders
- Obtain letters of support from P-20 Network institutions
- Establish IREP steering committee with representatives from each partner
- Design and implement a multi-institution ePortfolio pilot project
Articulation Work Group

- **Annual Transfer Student Research Report**
  - 2420 students transferred to NIU in spring and fall 2014.
  - 37% participated in the survey
  - Over 90% of students said the transfer process was very easy to manageable
  - Top transfer institutions were Waubonsee and Rock Valley
  - Transfer students said they were extremely well prepared or well-prepared in academic behaviors, study skills, and academic knowledge.
  - Individual college reports will be distributed over the next two months.
Student Support Services
Summary of Progress

Eric A. Weldy, Ed.D., Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
Review of Progress on Objective 1

Comprehensive Student Support

► **Completed:** Survey addressing current programs/services administered to community colleges and high schools
  ▶ 13 Community Colleges, 6 School Districts

► **Question Categories Included:**
  ► College Success Classes
  ► Student Academic Advising
  ► Transfer Preparation
  ► Career Planning Services
  ► Student to Student Peer Mentoring
  ► Career Success Skills
Select Initial Survey Findings

- **Community Colleges (n=13)**
  - All offered introductory college success courses
  - All instituted new programs to address challenges
  - Most have mandatory academic advising
  - Evaluation of programs/services is inconsistent
School Districts (n=6)

- Majority provide college planning and preparation, help transitioning to college or career, and career planning
- Most districts mentioned staff shortages for these functions
- Half provide student-to-student peer mentoring
- Four districts will participate in a regional peer networking conference
Comprehensive Student Support

Next Steps

- Continue analysis of extensive survey data to identify specific gaps and potential targets for regional services
- Need to prioritize program needs and determine appropriate regional approaches to gaps.
Review of Progress on Objective 2

Financial Education

- **Completed.** Survey of financial literacy education administered to community colleges and high schools.
  - Community Colleges, n=22
  - School Districts, n=6

- **Question Categories Included:**
  - FAFSA completion
  - Understanding financial aid programs and processes
  - Financial preparation for postsecondary education
  - Effective personal financial management
Select Initial Survey Findings

- Community Colleges & School Districts
  - Offer a broad range of financial literacy programs
  - FAFSA workshops are available to both current and prospective students and their families
  - Only one institution does NOT offer FAFSA completion workshops
Financial Education
Next Steps

- Complete **data collection** to maximize regional input into development of next steps
- Continue analysis of extensive survey data to **identify specific gaps and potential targets** for regional services
- Plan and implement posting of **online database & develop communications plan and educational materials**
- Use the **Illinois Shared Learning Environment resource database platform** to generate a list of vetted resources in a searchable format
Regional Peer Mentoring

- Needs assessment survey generated 21 names interested in planning conference
- First meeting is scheduled, with an early task of identifying the specific areas of focus and a date for the conference
- Conference will organize P-20 Network resources to meet the White House goal of training and supporting 80 student mentors for 400 at-risk students
1. **Student Support Services**
   - Finalize analysis of survey data
   - Develop plan to coordinate student services in areas of identified need

2. **Financial Education**
   - Finalize data collection and analysis
   - Develop plan based on survey findings

3. **Peer Mentoring**
   - Convene planning committee & begin conference planning
Alignment of Standards

- Goal: 100% of students graduate from high school with 12-15 college credits and/or a professional certificate

- White House Commitment: Conduct economic and workforce metadata analysis of workplace shortages and emerging career needs

- Participation: 17 leaders from 12 organizations
Alignment of Standards
Objective 1: High School Outcomes

- Baseline data on educational attainment
  - Census data shows a range from 25% to 55% across the region
  - High school data on early college credits and certificates will be collected this spring at the state level as part of another grant project
  - Developmental enrollments also being collected at the state level

- Next step - Develop a tracking system
Alignment of Standards
Objective 2: Workforce Needs

- **Current workforce needs**
  - Reports completed for region as a whole and for each community college district

- **Next step**
  - Add predictive data to anticipate future workforce needs
  - Identify opportunities for coursework to meet demands
    - Dual credit or certification programs in high school
    - New degree programs and professional certifications for post-secondary
Research is continuing on models to pilot delivery of high quality, high school courses for dual credit (especially for low-incidence courses), AP, and developmental education.
Alignment of Standards
Objective 4: Development of Courses

- New courses
  - Courses fully aligned with Illinois Learning Standards are quite rare
  - New dual credit courses may earn credit at high school or college level
    - Quantitative literacy
    - Written and oral communications
  - Developmental courses will be standards-aligned. Successful students may earn placement in to credit courses at college level.

- Next steps
  - Finalize model
  - Form faculty teams and begin development process
Adult Learners
Summary of Progress

Meryl Sussman, Assistant Vice President, Outreach Adult & Non-Credit Programming
Defining the Adult Learner for the Subgroup’s Focus

Survey respondents and subgroup members agreed that the following were included in their definition of an adult learner:

- 24 years of age or older; or
- A veteran or actively serving member of the armed services; or
- Returning to school after four or more years of employment, homemaking, or other activity; or
- Performing at least one adult role such as parent, spouse/partner, employee and student.
Objectives

- Bachelor Degree Completion
- Prior Learning Assessments
- Best Practices for Adults
- Models for Adult Learner Support
Objective - Bachelor Degree Completion

- **Defined** - Identify gaps in bachelor degree completion programs for adult learners with associate degrees, including AAS degrees, and/or professional certifications.

- **Progress** - Work with the P-20 Articulation group to provide more seamless transitions from 2 to 4 year institutions through tools like tightly-aligned pathways.

- **Next Steps** - Provide support for proposals for competency-based framework for IAI articulation agreements.
Objective - Prior Learning Assessments

- **Defined** - Document best practices at leading institutions across the country with prior learning assessments for possible implementation at northern Illinois institutions.

- **Progress** - The group conducted a survey of the P-20 Network institutions regarding their adult learner programs and practices for prior learning assessments.

- **Next Steps** - Collaborate with the regional ePortfolio consortium to explore the use of an e-Portfolio as a process for documenting prior learning.
Objective - Best Practices for Adults

**Defined** - Share successful approaches for adult learners across network institutions, including flexible scheduling, alternative delivery modes, reduced time to degree completion, and solutions to out-of-district fee issues.

**Progress** - Survey data revealed all sites employ adult learner recruitment methods, but with wide variation. Barriers to adult learners adult.

**Next Steps** - Seek solutions and provide recommendations for streamlining adult learner services, recruitment and program offerings.
Objective - Models for Adult Learner Support

- **Defined** - Develop a model for better serving adult learners across the region through collaboration among network institutions.

- **Progress** - Consensus reached on working definition for the adult learner. Work under way to develop sharing of best practices.

- **Next Steps** - Consider regional communications strategies for conveying the importance of a bachelor’s degree early on in the process.
Illinois’ Early Learning Priorities

Of children with high needs, by 2016:
- 52% have at least 1 yr high quality* early learning services
  - 40% have at least 2 yrs
  - 10% have 5 full years
*Gold Circle in ExceleRate Illinois

AND
- 50% of all licensed child care centers achieve above Licensed Circle in QRIS
  - 25% achieve Gold Circle

By 2021, 80% of all children will be fully ready for kindergarten

Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development
Illinois Early Learning Council