Recommendations for Revised Work Group Assignments

Articulation

**Goal: Create seamless transitions across the education continuum from cradles to careers.**

1. Recommend use of competencies for making decisions on course articulation through the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI).
   - January 2015 – Complete research and identify models.
   - September 2015 – Complete policy paper and action plan for consideration by state agencies.

2. Improve definition of guided pathways to degree completion and reduce redundancy of courses required.
   - January 2015 – Clarify pathways and increase 3+1 and 2+2 programs by 10% and reverse transfer agreements by 25%.
   - September 2015 – Clarify pathways and increase 3+1 and 2+2 programs by 10% and reverse transfer agreements by 25%.

3. Engage at least 20 more NIU faculty members and 30 more community college faculty in CCSS and large scale assessment implementation meetings with middle school, high school, and community college faculty.
   - January 2015 – Add 10 NIU faculty and 15 community college faculty to this work.
   - September 2015 – Add 10 NIU faculty and 15 community college faculty to this work.

4. Establish a formal relationship with the Illinois P-20 Council.
   - Fall 2014 – Launch dialogue with the P-20 Council about a role for this regional network.
   - September 2015 – Participate in the P-20 Council’s work as a regional partner.

Alignment of Standards for Advancing Student Opportunities in Dual Credit, AP, and Developmental Education

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

1. Collect and analyze baseline data on the percentage of students in the northern Illinois region who graduated from high school with college credits and/or professional certification in May/June 2014 and the percentage of students registered for developmental courses.
   - January 2015 – Completed report provides a basis for further planning.

2. Analyze economic development and workforce data in order to identify current workplace shortages and emerging career areas across the northern Illinois region.
January 2015 – Completed report provides basis for study and action recommendations.

September 2015 – Identification of new opportunities for accelerated coursework such as dual credit or certification programs as well as new degree programs and certifications.

3. Develop a model to pilot delivery of high quality, high school courses for dual credit, Advanced Placement, and developmental education across district boundaries.

   January 2015 – Research best practices, consider pros and cons, and develop models.
   September 2015 – Create agreement documents and plan pilots of the new models.

4. Research and develop a model process for aligning high school and college curricula in the core competency courses of quantitative literacy and written and oral communications. Check with state education agencies to see whether they have plans for creating these courses; if so, seek to be included in the development process.

   January 2015 – Report by quantitative literacy and communications faculty teams from high schools and higher education on the process selected and plans for implementation.
   September 2015 – Report on implementation of the alignment process and timeline for production of the courses to be delivered to high school and college students.

Student Support Services

Goal: Coordinate student support systems across institutions in the northern Illinois region to ease transitions and increase student success.

- 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.

   January 2015 – Report on a survey of institutions to assess strengths and gaps in the region’s student support services and identify additional targets for development of regional services.
   September 2015 – Present project plans to coordinate student services in areas of need.

- Build a comprehensive menu of financial literacy activities for P-20 students and families.

   January 2015 – Identify existing programs at all levels and needs for development of new programs.
   September 2015 – Share a full continuum of financial literacy activities for schools and post-secondary institutions with identified providers and resources.

- 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.

   January 2015 – Identify existing programs and best practices in peer mentoring, plus training and support. See ISAC Student Assistance Corps for one model.
   September 2015 – Report on a regional conference on peer mentoring held in summer 2015 and next steps to expand and improve peer mentoring.
Adult and Non-Traditional Learners (New Group Added in September 2014)

Goal: Increase higher education enrollment of adult and non-traditional learners, who are essential to meeting the goal of increasing the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality degrees and professional credentials to 60% by 2025.

- Document best practices with prior learning assessments and career certifications for placement at northern Illinois institutions.
- Share approaches to marketing and policies 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.
- Develop a model for better serving adult and non-traditional learners across the region.

Data Collection Requests

- Collect and analyze baseline data showing regional status on the Illinois P-20 Council goal of 60% of residents holding a post-secondary degree or professional certification by 2025.
- Determine whether links exist between college readiness data and employment data; e.g., where do students go with their certifications?

Other Issues

- Circulate definitions of what it means to be “college ready,” seeking a common definition.
- Connect with early childhood and parent organizations.
- Communications – what points would you make in a press release about your institution’s participation in this network?

NEXT MEETING – FEBRUARY, 2015