College and Career Readiness Initiatives
Northern Illinois University

Best Practices
Reverse transfer agreements with Waubonsee, Kishwaukee, Rock Valley, and McHenry.
Research on performance of transfer students at NIU; data reported to all community colleges.

College and Career Readiness Alliance Activities with Local Community Colleges and Schools
NIU conducted 12 focus groups with community college faculty, staff, and students to collect feedback on a new general education program, which will be aligned with CCSS.
PARCC Committee appointed, active, and attending IBHE, ICCB, ISBE training workshops.
Regional ePortfolios to show progress on CCSS to be explored by NIU and colleges starting in September.

Early College Options
DeKalb and Sycamore students prepared for high-level math classes not taught by their high schools or by Kishwaukee College take courses such as differential equations at NIU.
NIU is developing an online anatomy course that may be offered for dual credit either through a community college partner or a state agency.

Alternative Pathways in Mathematics – Designed to get students into college-level math faster and more successfully
NIU has adopted a blended program that uses an online math lab and tutors to improve students’ success in Math 110, a credit course that is a pre-requisite for math in most majors.

Career and Technical Education
College of Engineering participates in pathways programs for engineering with Kishwaukee, aeronautics with District 205 and Rock Valley College, as well as giving credit for Project Lead the Way courses.

P-12 Career Exploration - such as career fairs, workplace visits, speakers, career materials
NIU hosts dozens of visits each year from K-12 students participating campus tours and hands-on activities in NIU's labs and other facilities.

Internships and Apprenticeships
NIU is seeking to provide internships starting in the freshmen year for every interested student. Programs in health sciences, engineering, and education require internships or apprenticeships.

Participation in Illinois Pathways or STEM Learning Exchanges
NIU participates actively in four learning exchanges - Research and Development, Health Sciences, Manufacturing, and Finance. Econ Illinois at NIU is the lead institution for the Finance Learning Exchange

Collaboration and Partnerships
The Regional College Readiness Partnership pursued a variety of IBHE-funded research and CCSS implementation activities with Elgin, Kishwaukee, McHenry, Rock Valley, Waubonsee, 2012-2014. Participation in regional literacy across the disciplines projects funded by ICCB
NIU partners national organizations dedicated to increasing college access and completion.