Northern Illinois Regional P-20 Network
Articulation Work Group

January 13, 2015, 1 p.m.
Northern Illinois University, Lowden Hall 304

Notes

Participants
Anne Birberick, NIU – Chair
Marilyn Bellert, NIU
Tony Capalbo, MCC – phone
John Coffin, ECC – phone
Laurie Cubit, MCC – phone
Laurie Elish-Piper, NIU
Jon Furr, NIU – phone
Sedgwick Harris, Kishwaukee
Cindy Henderson, NIU
Melinda James, WCC – phone
Steve Kellner, D214 – phone
Lisa Matich, NIU
Travis McGuire, H-BR
Jerry Montag, NIU
Debbie Pixton, NIU
Robyn Schiffman, IVCC
Kelli Sinclair, WCC
Jeff Strauss, H-BR
Meryl Sussman, NIU

Review group objectives, discuss tasks, and identify actions needed for completion

1. Recommend use of competencies for making decisions on course articulation through the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI).
   - A small work group of Anne Birberick, Cindy Henderson, Travis McGuire, Bill Marzano, and Melinda James will meet to work on an outline of the white paper. Once they have an outline, it will be shared with the work group for feedback and to be fleshed out further.
   - Anne Birberick will share the reviewed white paper with her committee at IAI for feedback. If we can get support from one or more of the IAI panels we may have more success gaining traction with policy makers in Springfield.
   - Components of the policy paper outline
     - Provide a brief history of the IAI and identify current problems that could be addressed by shifting to a competency-based system
     - Define what we mean by competencies and a competency-based system
     - Review the national context for using competencies for articulation, including national organizations endorsing this system and state examples such as Kentucky
     - Review system-level activities in Illinois that would work more smoothly if IAI articulation were based on competencies; e.g., Illinois Learning Standards, Illinois Pathways.org, use of power standards by schools, standards set by professional associations
     - Outline steps that Illinois could use in moving toward a new system
     - Present advantages of shifting to a competency-based system for articulation

2. Improve definition of guided pathways to degree completion starting in high school and reduce redundancy of courses required at the post-secondary level.
   Baseline data is needed in order to inform expansion and improvement of guided pathways to completion of degree programs. An NIU team will work with participants to collect the following:
   - Bachelor’s degree completion programs available in the region. A definition for bachelor’s degree completion programs is not universally recognized. A new list of programs will be
compiled and sent to community colleges to make sure that the programs included fit their understanding of what a bachelor’s degree completion program is.

- Existing guided pathways (variously named) to majors and degrees
  - The Aviation Technology Pathway Model, using the progression from Rockford Public Schools 205 to Rock Valley College to Northern Illinois University was shared and reviewed. This template will be used to create a parallel pathway for 3 additional programs (nursing, elementary education, and manufacturing). A project from the ICCB may be helpful to this process. A need to generalize the model with competencies for each year, including licensure components, will need to be developed.
  - Portions of a presentation from Guided Pathways to Success (GPS) was shared, to articulate more clearly the components Complete College America believes important to a pathways approach. Recognizing that this is a very prescriptive model that will be difficult to apply across the board, we can still learn from the best practices that they recommend to gain the benefit of reducing the number of unnecessary courses that students take over their educational career. NIU is exploring how to best use the GPS components to help NIU students stay on track.
  - Other models for similar kinds of mapping were also shared, including Transferology and MCC’s course mapping.

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.**
   - NIU and other post-secondary institutions have faculty engaged in reviewing the PARCC assessments as to whether or not the questions address the knowledge and skills that are essential at each level.
   - Lots of unknowns about the PARCC, but this regional group may wish to do its own studies on the predictive validity of the PARCC.

4. **Establish a formal relationship with the Illinois P-20 Council.**
   - Not sure what will happen with the new state administration, but there is an impression that the Illinois P-20 Council will continue to function.
   - The Northern Illinois P-20 Network is on the Illinois P-20 Council agenda for the April meeting.

**Next Steps**
- Set up a conference call for the end of January with the subgroup to work on the general outline for the white paper. A draft will be put on the website for everyone to review and provide input/feedback. Additional people may join the small group if appropriate to help flesh out the outline.
- Update the bachelor’s degree completion programs list and send to the community colleges for review.
- Work group members need to brief their president or superintendent prior to the February 10th meeting.
Future meetings
- Next meeting will be in early March.
- A Doodle poll will be distributed to find dates for the next three meetings for the work group.

Meeting materials
Documents related to this topic are posted online at [www.niu.edu/p20network](http://www.niu.edu/p20network). Click on the Resources tab and then on the Articulation Work Group under Meetings and Materials. Feel free to send links to other documents that you recommend for this group to Debbie Pixton (dpixton@niu.edu).

Work Group Participants
Anne Birberick, Northern Illinois University  
Tony Capalbo, McHenry County College  
John Coffin, Elgin Community College  
Laurie Cubit, McHenry County College  
Judy Doyle, Northern Illinois University  
Jon Furr, Northern Illinois University  
Peggy Gundrum, Elgin Community College  
Sedgwick Harris, Kishwaukee College  
Cindy Henderson, Northern Illinois University  
Steve Kellner, District 214  
Vicki Jacobson, Rockford 205

Melinda James, Waubonsee Community College  
Travis McGuire, Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD 429  
Julie Melnyk, Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD 429  
Jerry Montag, Northern Illinois University  
Greg Robinson, Elgin Community College  
Robyn Schiffman, Illinois Valley Community College  
Tom Schrader, College of DuPage  
Jeff Strouss, Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD 429  
Meryl Sussman, Northern Illinois University  
Vicky Tusken, DeKalb CUSD 428

Always in Mind

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

**Objectives**
- Recommend use of competencies for making decision 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.
- Improve definition of guided pathways to degree completion and reduce redundancy of courses required.
  - January 2015 - Clarify pathways and increase bachelor’s degree completion programs by 10% and reverse transfer agreements by 25%.
  - September 2015 - Clarify pathways and increase bachelor’s degree completion programs by an additional 10% and reverse transfer agreements by an additional 25%.
- 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 more NIU faculty and 15 more community college faculty to this work.
- Establish a formal relationship with the Illinois P-20 Council.
  - Fall 2015 - Launch a 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.