Regional P-20 Network

Articulation Work Group

NOTES

October 8, 2014

Participants
Anne Birberick, NIU          Laurie Elish-Piper, NIU          Kelli Sinclair, WCC
John Coffin, ECC            Cindy Henderson, NIU          Jeff Strauss, H-BR
Laurie Cubit, MCC           Lisa Matich, NIU          Meryl Sussman, NIU
Judy Doyle, NIU             Jerry Montag, NIU          Marilyn Bellert, NIU

Update
Anne Birberick reported that the P-20 Network leadership had warmly endorsed efforts to develop policy recommendations on the use of competencies for making decisions on course articulation through the IAI. They also revised the objective on accelerated degree completion to emphasize guided pathways to degree completion and a reduction in redundant required courses.

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).**
   Consideration of using competencies for a variety of purposes including articulation is underway nationally. The Association of General and Liberal Studies and the American Association of Colleges and Universities are both engaged in work on competencies. Assessments of prior learning use competencies as do MOOCs. Since the New Illinois Learning Standards emphasize competencies, this seems to be an opportune time for research and policy recommendations on this topic. An NIU researcher will seek clear definitions, locate models, and identify best practices in the use of competencies for articulation. The Idaho university system, the University of Wisconsin system, and the Western Governors University consortium were suggested as possible models.

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
   - Existing guided pathways (variously named) to majors and degrees
   - Number of students in bachelor’s degree completion programs who complete in five years
   - Connections between post-secondary guided pathways and Illinois Pathways.org
   Jerry Montag will follow up on a guided pathways template developed for transfers by NIU and WCC. Jerry and John Coffin will follow up on development of a reverse transfer agreement. Meryl Sussman requested the assistance of the group in the redesign of NIU’s Off-campus Academics web pages. The difficulty of locating guided pathways information was noted on multiple sites.
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.**
   - The invitation to participate in a faculty judgment study of PARCC items will be circulated to the community colleges.
   - NIU will invite the PARCC teams in the region to share information about expectations for PARCC processes and decisions.

4. **Establish a formal relationship with the Illinois P-20 Council.**
   Efforts are underway to explore the possibilities for working directly as part of the P-20 Council. The next P-20 Council meeting is October 23.

**Future meetings – Locations to be determined by the group**
- November 25, 2014, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Call-in number is 815 753 0019.
- January 13, 2015, 1:00 p.m.

**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**
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