Northern Illinois Regional P-20 Network
Articulation Work Group

March 2, 2015, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Northern Illinois University, Lowden Hall, Room 304
Call in Number – 815.753.0016

Attendees
Anne Birberick (NIU – Chair), Marilyn Bellert (NIU), Tony Capalbo (MCC – phone), Laurie Cubit (MCC – phone), Melinda James (WCC – phone), Brandon Lagana (NIU), Travis McGuire (HBR), Debbie Pixton (NIU), Meryl Sussman (NIU), Marty Voiles (SHS)

Notes
Melinda James has agreed to serve as co-chair for this work group. The group is very supportive of her role in this capacity.

Review of February 10 P-20 Network Leadership Meeting

- Progress of this work group has been well received and there was good discussion at the round tables in response to the work
- We need to continue to watch for overlap among the work groups to ensure that our efforts complement one another
- Two items were shared that came under Articulation that were more informational items
  - Transfer Student Survey conducted by NIU – results from Fall 2014 were shared for the region; college specific reports are being developed
  - Illinois Regional Electronic Portfolio (IREP) Initiative – this project is building on the ePortfolio Symposium held in September 2014; their work is also seen as an area of interest to the adult learner group as it relates to documenting prior learning. The project’s first phase includes postsecondary institutions. A later phase will include school districts.

Illinois Articulation Agreement (IAI) Recommendations

- Reassured state agencies that we are not trying to dismantle the IAI
- There is some concern about new legislation that’s being proposed. Former Senate Bill 59 from 2013 (Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act sponsored by Senator Ira Silverstein and Senator Dan Kotowski) is being revisited as Senate Bill 806 sponsored by Senator Dan Kotowski and Senator Kimberly Lightford. Under this bill, all courses would be accepted for transfer taking decisions out of the hands of institutions. One concern driving these bills relates to federal aid for duplicate courses.
- Our goal is to recommend changes for the IAI panels that would focus on student outcomes/learning objectives that would facilitate alignment with the Illinois Learning Standards.
- As we move forward, consider the LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes, which some schools have already adopted.
- No additional feedback was provided for the IAI subcommittee’s outline for the policy paper. Another conference call will be set up in March for the subcommittee to flesh out the paper
further. They will meet, and another draft circulated to the work group, prior to inviting Malinda Aiello (IBHE) to react to our proposal. The development of the policy paper will be done in a Google Doc to facilitate comments and feedback.

Guided Pathways
- Review of the draft nursing model demonstrates the complexities and confusion that students experience in understanding the pathways to degree completion when they take non-traditional routes.
- Cover sheets need to include the level of rigor high school students need to take and the specific kinds of tests the students need to take for particular programs.
- WCC has committed to working on five of these pathways; one for Accounting is done, but not public
- COD has done something similar – Meryl to see if she can get information
- Kishwaukee has done something similar with CTE programs (e.g. manufacturing); Sara Pohl is the contact person; http://www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/programs_of_study/high_school.php?page=76
- MCC College Career Clusters
  - www.mchenry.edu/collegeready
    - Click on High School
    - Under College Planning, click on the bullet for McHenry County HS Districts’ College and Career Readiness Planning Guide
  - www.co.mchenry.il.us/ccr
  - Both websites will take you to our 4-year planning guides:
    - Website for 14 public high schools in McHenry County
    - 16 Career Clusters and 4 year planning guide templates for each high school
    - Post-secondary information on certificates and associate degrees at MCC
    - Post-secondary information on 4yr colleges/universities

CCSS and large scale assessment implementation meetings
- April Workshop teaching literacy across the disciplines workshop for STEM faculty at NIU
- June 22-26, Coaching and Mentoring Workshop for Teaching the New Standards
- Engaging postsecondary faculty in the PARCC workshop(s) are not scheduled as results from the first round of PARCC testing will not be made available until the fall.

Illinois P-20 Council April Meeting
- Tell them about the P-20 Network and get official status
- Waiting on an official date to determine who will present

Next Steps
- Meryl and Debbie will revise nursing pathway
- Anne will reach out to NIU’s nursing department about what classes high school students should take
- Meryl will reach out to Brian Durham from ICCB to see if there is information about the College of DuPage pathways project that is available and sharable
- Next work group meeting – April 9, location TBD
Meeting materials
Documents related to this topic are posted online at 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, Vice Provost, Northern Illinois University, Co-Chair
Melinda James, Vice President of Student Development, Waubonsee Community College, Co-Chair
Tony Capalbo, Associate Dean for College and Career Readiness, McHenry County College
John Coffin, Associate Dean for Student Success, Elgin Community College
Laurie Cubit, Articulation and Transfer Coordinator, McHenry County College
Judy Doyle, Assistant Director, Registration and Records, Northern Illinois University
Jon Furr, Director, Education Systems Center, Northern Illinois University
Peggy Gundrum, Director of Career Services and Development, Elgin Community College
Sedgwick Harris, Vice President of Student Services, Kishwaukee College
Cindy Henderson, Executive Director, Career Services, Northern Illinois University
Vicki Jacobson, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary, Rockford 205
Travis McGuire, Superintendent, Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD 429
Julie Melnyk, Elementary School Principal, Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD 429
Jerry Montag, Director, Registration and Records, Northern Illinois University
Greg Robinson, Dean of Student Services and Development, Elgin Community College
Tom Schrader, Associate Dean, Math & Physical Sciences, College of DuPage
Jeff Strouss, Middle School Principal, Hinckley Big-Rock CUSD 429
Meryl Sussman, Assistant Vice President for Adult and Non-Credit Programming, NIU
Vicky Tusken, Secondary Curriculum Coordinator, DeKalb CUSD 428

Always in Mind
Goal: Create seamless transitions across the education continuum from cradles to careers.

White House Commitment: Advise policy makers on simplifying transfer of credit procedures and reduce redundancy of courses required, so students can complete degrees and certificates.

Next Steps to Meet September 2015 Objectives

- Recommend use of competencies and/or student learning outcomes for making decisions on course articulation through the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI).
  - Complete and circulate a draft of a policy paper.
- Improve definition of guided pathways to degree completion and reduce redundancy of courses required.
  - Develop additional models of pathways that encompass high school, community college, and four year university programs, adding nursing and manufacturing.
  - Support the implementation of additional reverse transfer agreements for the six community colleges that are in progress and with additional colleges that have expressed interest.
- Engage NIU and community college faculty in CCSS and large scale assessment implementation meetings with middle school, high school, and community college faculty.
Hold meetings with faculty from across all three levels following the release of the results from the PARCC pilot tests to determine next steps in assessing validity.

Promote participation in the coaching and mentoring for CCSS workshop at NIU in June, 2015.

Establish a formal relationship with the Illinois P-20 Council.

Present to the Illinois P-20 Council at its April 2015 meeting.

Engage in a dialogue with the P-20 Council about a role for the Regional P-20 Network in informing and implementing the work of the Council.