Welcome
Attending: Anne Birberick (NIU), Tony Capalbo (MCC - phone), John Coffin (ECC - phone), Laurie Cubit (MCC - phone), Judy Doyle (NIU), Laurie Elish-Piper (NIU), Cindy Henderson (NIU), Vicki Jacobson (RPS), Melinda James (WCC - phone), Mark Lanting (KC), Travis McGuire (HBR), Julie Melnyk (HBR), Jerry Montag (NIU), Jeff Strouss (HBR), Meryl Sussman (NIU), Debbie Pixton (NIU)

Overview
Anne Birberick reviewed the actions taken since the August 5 meeting and the charge to this group, which includes identifying deliverables for the September 3 meeting and making recommendations for six and twelve-month action plans.

Discussion of 30 Day Action Items
• **Survey colleges and school districts on best practices in career exploration locally and nationally**
  - Survey sent to work group members; received 7 responses (shared summary).
  - Discussed links with the Alignment of Standards for Accelerated Student Opportunities Work Group work on identifying areas of high need/areas of large job growth and the identification of spotlight programs.

  Make sure to continue to include soft skills as part of student development (do not solely focus on academics).

• **Survey summer bridge programs to determine focus, length, eligibility, and content.**
  - Survey sent to work group members; received 4 responses (shared summary).
  - Discussed links to the Alignment of Standards for Accelerated Student Opportunities Work Group investigation on transforming the senior year of high school.

  Information shared on the Bridging the Gap grant that several of the community colleges are applying for, which includes a requirement for a summer bridge program in either English or math. There is a meeting scheduled for August 26 on the grant, which Tony Capalbo is attending. He will pass along any information shared, which will be added to the website.

• **Survey work group members regarding prior learning assessments, including what instruments they are using.**
  - Survey sent to work group members; received 5 responses (shared summary).

  Hinkley-Big Rock uses NWEA Map Assessment as one piece of information to help them place home school students.

  NIU Participates in SOC ([Servicemembers Opportunity College](https://www.socprogram.org)). The main goal should be to add flexibility in offering prior learning assessments and expanding the practices we already have. Registration and records at NIU has started the expansion. As part of that expansion an individual in
R&R has been assigned to handle students with a military background.

- **Make reverse transfer information available for interested colleges.**
  Information has been posted to the Articulation Work Group web page. NIU Registration and Records is working with several community colleges to put similar agreements and processes in place similar to those currently in existence. Jerry Montag plans to prompt colleagues at the annual registration and records conference to see if they can promote it within their institutions and circle of influence.

A final “to-do” from the last meeting was a question about the inclusion of cursive in the CCSS. Cursive is not specifically included in the new standards, but is implied and still used by many teachers as an instructional tool rather than explicitly mandated in the standards. However, it is left to the choice of teachers as an instructional tool rather than in the standards.

**Twelve Month Activities**

- **Recommend that the group work collaboratively to influence IAI to consider the use of competencies and/or require alignment with the new Illinois Learning Standards**
  - Get the recommendation on people’s radars
  - By design the IBHE does not have the authority to mandate institutions to do anything
  - Consider incentives to offer to institutions who do align courses and programs to the CCSS
  - Learn more about the Higher Ed for Higher Standards group

- **Expand 3+1, 2+2, and reverse transfer programs**
  Some programs are more eager than others to develop and expand 3+1 and 2+2 opportunities. Working with those programs will provide a strong start. Development of agreement on foundational coursework for pathways would help students to progress.

- **Use faculty-to-faculty meetings and regular articulation conferences as key strategies**
  - Consider participation in Kishwaukee College’s education summit at the end of October as one point of entry from a high level (board member)
  - Convene clusters of faculty members from NIU and community colleges to get them on board with the CCSS and to begin the alignment work
  - Consider bringing in a Rockford academy coach

- **Establish a formal relationship with the Illinois P-20 Council**
  - Formalize the Northern Illinois P-20 Network as a step in its sustainability plan

**Next Steps**

- Notes from today and presentation for September 3 meeting will be sent to the group for feedback
- Based on September 3 meeting, we will set goals, and milestones for the group, and will set future meeting dates
- We will include six month goals and plot out the next six months

**Meeting Materials**

Please feel free to send links to documents that you recommend for this group to Debbie Pixton (dpixton@niu.edu) for posting at www.niu.edu/p20network.