Northern Illinois P-20 Network

Student Support Services Work Group Meeting

January 12, 2015, 1:00 p.m.
Northern Illinois University, Lowden Hall Room 304
Call in number - 815.753.0011

Agenda

Welcome and introductions

Updates

- Comprehensive menu of financial literacy resources
  - Inventory
    - Econ Illinois and the regional survey are collecting lists of resources and feedback on their usefulness.
    - What’s the best way to present these options so that they will be easily accessed and used by parents, students, and educators?
  - Financial education survey
    - Preliminary results (if available)
    - FAFSA Completion Workshops
      ISAC is offering FAFSA completion workshops throughout Illinois - [http://www.isac.org/students/before-college/outreach-activities/event-calendar/index.html](http://www.isac.org/students/before-college/outreach-activities/event-calendar/index.html). Can we add to this schedule and promote workshops across the region?
- Assess student support services to identify gaps and develop needed interventions
  - Needs assessment is under review to be distributed in the next 24 hours to this group via email
  - Results needed by the end of the month
- Embark on a regional peer mentoring initiative for 400 high-need pre-college and freshman students with 80 trained peer mentors
  - See needs assessment

Next steps

- Complete those surveys!
- Next meeting—decide on date and location
- Preparation for February 10 meeting
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 Student Support Services 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).

Always in Mind

**Goal — Coordinate student support systems across institutions in the northern Illinois region to ease transitions and increase student success.**

**Revised Assignments**

- Build a **comprehensive, coordinated student support system** that includes “soft skills” training, orientation courses such as UNIV 101, course advising, career planning, counseling and coaching, financial literacy, financial aid advising, impact of current choices on life, systems navigation, and mentoring.
  - January 2015 – Report on a survey of institutions to assess strengths and gaps in the region’s student support services and identify additional targets for development of regional services.
  - September 2015 – Present project plans to coordinate student services in areas of need.

- Build a comprehensive menu of **financial literacy activities** for P-20 students and families.
  - January 2015 – Identify existing programs at all levels and needs for development of new programs.
  - September 2015 – Share a full continuum of financial literacy activities for schools and post-secondary institutions with identified providers and resources.

- Organize a northern Illinois regional **network of peer mentors**, who receive training and support, to increase the success of students in high school and college.
  - January 2015 – Identify existing programs and best practices in peer mentoring, plus training and support. See ISAC Student Assistance Corps for one model.
  - September 2015 – Report on a regional conference on peer mentoring held in summer 2015 and next steps to expand and improve peer mentoring.