Notes

- Update from Econ Illinois – comprehensive menu of financial literacy resources
  - Plans for developing and disseminating a comprehensive menu of financial literacy resources are underway using the Illinois Open Educational Resource (IOER) to house the resources. A meeting between Econ Illinois and web tech people is scheduled for this afternoon to determine what’s possible for the online presence as a next step.
  - We need to keep in mind how to direct people to the resources (and making sure the number of resources is not overwhelming) is key.
  - Once we have time to go through the survey information, we will have a better idea of how to utilize this resource.

- Action plan for analyzing the financial literacy and needs assessment surveys
  - Debbie and Amy will develop a more easily digestible way to review the data from the financial education and needs assessment surveys and distribute it to team members. They will also develop a template of sorts for the teams to use when reporting back to the group to provide a focus for their coding and any analysis.
  - The teams will code the data sent to them and have a preliminary report to share at the next meeting; they plan to look at the data individually and then come together to discuss their initial impressions and generate a summary for the entire work group that includes gaps in programs and services that we might address as a group.

  i. Financial education
     1. Flecia Thomas
     2. Paul Crawford
     3. TBD

  ii. Needs assessments
     1. Nancy Partch
     2. Sue Martin
     3. Angela Hite-Carter
     4. Jacque Mecklenburg or Kaitlyn Curta
• Peer mentoring conference
  o First planning meeting is tomorrow
  o This project and conference are not currently aligned with the NIU University Honors Program Peer Mentoring Summit. Our goal will be to not duplicate or complicate their conference but compliment and supplement their activities to benefit the region.
  o Focus should be about learning from each other and sharing about how to make each institution’s program as strong as they can be to best serve students in our region.

• BACCHUS Area 4 Peer Education Conference scheduled for April 10-11 at NIU. Amy is planning to reach out to the person hosting the event and see how applicable it may be to our work. She hopes to attend at least part of the conference in order to learn from it and see what gaps there are in this programming that we might fill in our conference.

• Next Steps
  o Data analysis work
  o Next work group meeting – Doodle poll for the week of April 6

Meeting materials
Documents related to this topic are posted online at 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 to ease transitions and increase success.

White House Commitments

• Assess student support services to identify gaps and develop needed interventions.
• Develop a comprehensive menu of financial literacy activities for P-20 students and families.
• Embark on a regional peer mentoring initiative for 400 high-need, pre-college and freshmen students with 80 peer mentors.

Next Steps to Meet September Objectives

• 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.
  o Dive deep into the data collected through the needs assessments of community college and school district faculty to identify programming strengths that should be shared and programming gaps for the group to address. Share a summary of aggregated results with network institutions.
Develop a plan with recommendations for addressing gaps or coordinating services in areas of need.

- Build a comprehensive menu of financial literacy activities for P-20 students and families.
  - Analyze and synthesize data collected through the financial education survey administered to both community colleges and school districts to identify most needed and most valued resources and programs. Share a summary of aggregated results with network institutions.
  - Plan and implement posting of an online database of these resources.
  - Develop a communications plan and promotional materials (print and electronic) that promote knowledge of personal finance, financial decision-making, and post-secondary financial aid as well as better connect resources and services with the students and families who would benefit from them the most.

- 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.
  - Convene identified NIU, community college, and school district faculty and staff who support mentoring programs at their institutions for planning a regional conference in June or early fall 2015.
  - Deliver a regional conference that offers sessions on different types of mentoring and sharing of successes and challenges in existing programs.
  - Launch a mentoring project with 80 peer mentors and 400 at-risk high school and post-secondary students in fall 2015.