Northern Illinois Regional P-20 Network
Student Support Services Work Group

April 6, 2015, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Northern Illinois University, Altgeld Hall Room 225
Call in Number – 815.753.0021

Attendees
John Coffin (ECC – phone), Paul Crawford (NIU), Kaitlyn Curta (HBR 429), Amy Franklin (NIU), Dana Gautcher (NIU), Nancy Partch (Kish), Debbie Pixton (NIU), Dustin Seeman (D214 – phone), Flecia Thomas (MCC – co-chair), Eric Weldy (NIU – co-chair)

Comprehensive Menu of Financial Literacy Resources
- Work continues to move forward with Beth Metzler at Econ Illinois
- Hope to have a prototype to share at our meeting in May

Community College Needs Assessment Data Team Report
- Not any glaringly unusual information
- Main issues across categories
  - How to get students/parents to take advantage of resources and services that are available?
  - Inconsistency in how each institution defines terms – late registrations; some places they are problematic other places they aren’t.
- Advising
  - Pressure to provide a prescribed plan for all students – doesn’t take into account the life circumstances of many students
- Transfer students
  - Difficulty getting transfer data from the four year institutions
  - How are community colleges and school districts using data provided?
  - Are they interested in the student experience of transferring or number of students who continue/complete programs?
- Interest in marrying the academic side and support side of the house
  - District 214 is working to push more of the career and financial planning prep down into the middle schools. They use
    - OneGoal – a course with daily classes about college, financial aid, what you need to do to be successful, what supports you need, etc.
    - Naviance 6-12 – students and parents can log in from home; very comprehensive
      - This is a Hobsons product. D214’s regional rep is Tony DeJesus who could set up a sandbox account for people to explore if interested (mention Dustin Seeman if you contact him).
    - Career Cruising – rolling out a new more robust version that expands on its original career focus this spring; Dustin will report back when he learns more on April 15.

Financial Education Data Team Report
- What’s offered is great, but you have to attend to get the benefits of the programs.
- Most colleges offer very similar programs. Tracking is usually in the form of attendance numbers, FAFSA forms completed, and surveys if done at all.
• Attendance is often a problem.
• Concerns about undocumented and first generation students.
• Other ways to reach parents
  o Through employer offered workshops
  o Bank partnerships might offer workshops
  o Offer things on Sundays
  o Have child care available
• Push needs to be in the schools starting in middle school
  o Built into curriculum prior to senior year consumer education
  o Video vignettes and YouTube clips on these topics
• School district information – yes it would be great if, but no clear line of responsibility
• Would be great if IRS created an automatic FAFSA dump from income tax completion

Things We Could Do/Explore Further
• Create assessment tools and processes that would help with the data collection and analysis across student services assessing quality and beneficial to anyone. Developing the dialogue of drilling down about what is being assessed and providing clarity around assessment.
• Reaching employees through employers
• Host an Econ Expo (similar to STEMfest) focus on financial literacy concepts but with a lot of enthusiasm and energy

Peer Mentoring Conference Update
• Save the Date – June 16 at NIU Naperville
• Next steps – invitation and registration

Next Steps
• Code the school district needs assessment data
• Prepare to make a decision about new direction based on data at next meeting
• Next meeting – May 18, 1-2:30 pm, NIU Lowden Hall 304

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.
  - 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.