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

MINUTES FROM 5/18/15
May 18, 2015, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Northern Illinois University
Lowden Hall Room 304
Call in Number – (815) 753-0014

Attendees: Sue Martin (College of DuPage); Amy Franklin (NIU); Eric Weldy (NIU); Kaitlyn Curta (Hinckley-Big Rock District 429); John Coffin (Elgin); Dustin Seeman (D214); Beth Metzler; Nancy Partch (Kishwaukee College); Paul Crawford (NIU Outreach); Felicia Thomas (McHenry County College); Lucy Parker (NIU Graduate Assistant)

- Comprehensive menu of financial literacy resources – Update on progress related to online resources- Financial Literacy Visual
  - Reach out to reluctant audiences
  - Looking at PowerPoint-For potential logo for P-20 Financial Literacy Logo (out of 4 possible logos presented)
  - Title and Logo can change
  - Is “project” the appropriate word for this title?
  - 2 different rows (they are adjacent, but we can switch the pictures of individuals in the logo)
  - Our goals=Being inclusive in this logo and beyond
  - Logo Considered By Looking At: PowerPoint, Online Page, Printed Flyer Draft
    i. Age, Diversity, Race, Gender, SES, Etc. Considered
    ii. One example suggestion was to include other and/or additional wording, such as, advance, autonomy, prosperous, lifelong learner...
    iii. Practice and considering if youth can understand these concepts... because this network is targeting multiple demographics this logo is needed to represent a developmental/linear model.
    iv. Suggestion from Paul to invert picture and P-20 Logo
    v. Suggestion to change practice to application
    vi. Amy suggested adding subscripts (tiny text)
    vii. John suggested that between practice and advance we could have a cap and gown or some symbol to represent education
    viii. Felicia suggested having Asian American individuals be represented in logo
ix. P-20 Website not on the NIU Domain... Amy suggested that we put this on the NIU Domain to be used with Google translator to serve more people

x. Dr. Weldy also appreciated discussion and consideration regarding mobile apps. (ex. Mobile finance game)

xi. This was a great beginning as there was a lot of holistic feedback

- Discussion of coding results from all groups & decisions about next steps
  - Dr. Weldy states- data synopsis
    - Most people think all associations are Financial Aid’s job
    - Thus, there are gaps...
    - Challenge is: “How do people get to use this?”
    - Language is influential (i.e. SES is affected by language used)
    - There needs to be an intentional pedagogy/education used for students and family to pay for college
      1. Education on economics and personal finances was a suggestion
      2. Felicia stated-inclusivity for helping all students access resources is needed
      3. Social class needs to be further considered
      4. Amy asks: “What are strategies, besides the site, to connect with students and/or those audiences in need?”

- Student Support Services—Community Colleges (Dana will cover in our next meeting)
  - Having 2 people from the committee create a summary
  - Felicia and Paul will do a focus group from the Financial Aid data

- Student Support Services—School Districts (Dana will cover in our next meeting)
  - Consideration as SES is continuously being shut down in Education because of the financial strains, etc.

- Financial Education—Community Colleges- Identify and agree on what gaps there are...
  - Financial Education—School Districts

- Updates on Items of Preparation for September Meeting (These should be in the April notes?)

- Northern Illinois Regional Peer Mentoring Conference (June 16, NIU Naperville)—updated
  - Felicia bringing students from MCC and offered to contribute to raffle, etc.
  - Possibly next time, gear flyer more toward students

- Next steps
  - Finalize Logo, Graphic, Etc.
  - Dive deeper into the data...
  - June meeting decided to be on Monday, June 22nd from 1:00-2:30pm
Meeting materials
Documents related to this topic are posted (or will be 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 Amy Franklin (afranklin@niu.edu).

Location and Parking
Lowden Hall (aka the castle) is south of the College Drive cul-de-sac and a 5 minute walk from Visitors Parking. Free parking is available in the Visitors Lot south of the Holmes Student Center. Tell the attendant that you are attending a P-20 Network meeting, so that you are not charged.
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.