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

June 22nd 2015, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Northern Illinois University
Lowden Hall Room 304
Call in Number – (815) 753-0016

Notes:

Present: Sue Martin (College of DuPage); Flecia Thomas (McHenry County College); John Coffin (Elgin Community College); Paul Crawford (NIU); Beth Metzler (Econ Illinois); Nancy Partch (Kishwaukee College); Eric Weldy (NIU); Amy Franklin (NIU)

- Financial Education Update—Beth Metzler, Econ Illinois
  o Engaged in meeting with State Treasurer’s Office, with whom we have a longstanding relationship
  o This Treasurer wants something more formalized
  o We’re in process of putting together financial literacy resources
  o Shared with the State Treasurer’s Office the work of the SSS Group
  o Interested in exploring a partnership to make sure initiative moves forward and has funding
  o Looking at all consumers-Interested in resources at every age level
  o Visibility- The look of the initiatives (Handout with graphic of website, etc.)
    i. Changed graphic to incorporate feedback from last meeting.
    ii. Look at changing graphic to financial literacy for student success
    iii. The group likes that option
    iv. Could be financial literacy for Educational/Academic Success
    v. Either could work, but like Educational Success better
    vi. Are we saying financial information about how to pay for college?
    vii. We have a lot of resources already which aren’t always used
    viii. Don’t know that we should be too broad
    ix. “Educational” is more broad based, more open to non-student-aged population; for certificates, etc.
    x. Objective of SSS work group is P through 20, for other students and families to be informed
    xi. Many need brief description/tag line; something like, steps and preparation for educational success
    xii. Could we have some sort of introductory comments to help give general education for interested folks
    xiii. tagline could make it more broad or more narrow
    xiv. Financial Literacy for Educational Success- Yes
    xv. Logo-Graphic—yes, move forward with current graphics
xvi. Each page will have corresponding, 2 page, downloadable document/flyer about each area:
   1. Explore-Purple
   2. Introduce - Orange
   3. Practice- Green
   4. Advance- Red
   5. Prosper- Blue

xvii. These 5 words align with the WorkNet (?) terminology; we could have name of the column be related to a grade level.

xviii. Need to make sure the font selected for the page is print-friendly and easy to download

xix. Other possible names (from earlier discussion) could be “Financial Knowledge for Educational Success” or “Financial Education for Success”

xx. How do we help people make good decisions?

xxi. May not have consensus; need to get moving and start something and change them later...

xxii. Could there be a work group to make some decisions and recommendations to the overall group? Could have a group start working on the overall page (that includes the five items noted above in xvi. Other groups could tackle a couple of the items, e.g. 1 and 2 or 3-5.

xxiii. Flecia, Beth, Paul, and Amy agreed to assist

xxiv. Small group will script verbiage for overview page and create 1 or 2 of the concepts/category pages

xxv. Could think about a high school person to include if one is available

- **Other handouts**
  
  i. From information to informal decisions
  ii. Fostering college-ready financial skills in the NI region
  iii. Should we develop something to help folks navigate resources?
  iv. NAAA (National Academic Advisors Association)—Flecia will check to see if they have resources for advisors to use with students related to financial education.; They have many links related to academic advising on their site/

- **Updates on coding results from all groups & decisions about next steps**
  
  i. SSS- Community College Group—provided handout report of their analysis
     
     a. Sue Martin, Melinda James, Nancy Partch produced report
     
     b. They will talk about update next time
  
  ii. SSS High School Group—group discussed whether or not someone was going to review Debbie’s report of SSS data. Amy will connect with colleagues from Hinckley-Big Rock to try to find out.
  
  iii. CC & HS- Financial Education—did not receive any additional feedback from the group after they sent it out and reviewed the report at the last meeting

- **Northern Illinois Regional Peer Mentoring Conference (June 16, NIU Naperville), post conference report**
  
  i. Overall conference went well
Committee members requested copies of the PowerPoints of presentations? Amy and Lucy will investigate this
Need more dialogue and more training
Regulate training- Could have someone do this at NIU
About 80 people came
Seems to be interest in creating a stronger network

Next steps
July Meeting possible days: July 13th, 14th; Lucy will send Doodle Poll to find best time
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.