

Meeting Notes

P-16 Consortium Meeting of March 22, 2012

AGENDA

P-16 Educational Summit "Next Steps" Discussion

Present: Please see scanned sign-in sheet.

Dr. Lynn Fusco opened the meeting at 2:05 a.m. and the group engaged in a brief ice-breaker exercise.

Nicole Bycina, Erie 1 BOCES and member of the Promoting Partnerships in Public Education board of directors, gave a brief history of what brought us to this day. She noted that as a former United Way employee, she was familiar with the "leaky pipes" connecting preschool and K, and other levels of the P-12 experience. She was unfamiliar with the leaky connections between P-12 and higher education, but in discussion with colleagues, thought that would be a good partnership initiative for PPPE. A committee comprised of Nicole, Jane Burzynski, Tom Kulaszewski, Dr. Sharon Huff, Patti Wrobel and Steve Harvey developed the P-16 Summit held last October. This brought together and unprecedented gathering of P-16 leaders. A steering committee of interested participants formed to determine what to do with the data collected at that summit and what the next steps should be to improve the transition from P-12 to higher education. With the help of several more interested participants, three key foci were identified: 1) Common Core Learning Standards and College/Career Readiness, 2) Teacher Preparation, 3) Partnerships.

Dr. Fusco said the need now is to bring more people into that conversation - hence the meeting today as a P-16 Consortium - to identify what is going on in that P-12/higher ed transition and design another summit. Members of the consortium will break into the three task forces aligned with the areas identified above. They will provide information and collaboration to develop presentations for that summit. and She noted that the first topic of concern in New York State's Statewide Plan for Higher Education (01/10/12) is: Strengthen connections between the higher education and P-12 education functions of the university of the state of new york. The President's recent comments on student preparation and readiness (or lack thereof) also brings an urgency to this work.

The consortium's focus will be on students graduating from high school who need to take "remedial" courses in college ... what is going on with that and what can we do about it? The goal is to plan presentations of data and problem-solving to share with colleagues at the summit. The hope is to conduct more regional summits over time and expand the focus.

Dr. Fusco and Steve Harvey, WNY College Connection Executive Director, noted that this is an opportunity to develop relationships and share in this task together, creating a grassroots movement to help students who are moving from P-12 to Higher Education.

Points made during discussion:

- * Career/Business representatives need to be brought into the discussion for the next iteration.
- * We need measurable/manageable steps to begin "making a dent" in the problem.
- * Example: identify the HS graduation requirements and the Higher Ed entrance requirements: where is the disconnect?
- * Back channel the gap and do the remediation.

* This must be a collegial/collaborative endeavor: blame will get us nowhere.

Leaders were identified for the task forces, and individuals selected the group they want to work with.

Teacher Prep Task Force: Team Leads are John Siskar and Scott Payne.

College & Career Ready Task Force: Chris Holoman and Anthony Day

Partnerships Task Force: Sharon Huff and Tim Downs

These task forces will meet on their own. Team leads are asked to send meeting dates and names and e-mails of their task force members, along with planning document information, to Carol Wimmer (cwimmer@aldenschools.org) by April 12. The consortium will come together as a full group every other month or so to check in (next Consortium meeting will be Wednesday, June 20, from 2-4 p.m. at Erie 1 BOCES). We will plan for the next P-16 summit to be held in early October. The summits will mark our progress ... they will present the priorities, the objectives, what has been accomplished, and what remains to be accomplished.

Participants assembled into their task force groups and began discussions.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.