



## **Alliance for College Readiness**

### **Advisory Council**

**April 18, 2012**

### **Meeting Summary**

**In attendance:** Kara Vincente (300), Michelle Buhrow (300), Todd Stirn (301), Matthew Haug (301), Mark Pomplun (303), Jason Schmidt (303), Ed Russell (U-46), Carol Cowles (ECC), Sharon Colby (ECC), Mary Perkins (ECC), Alison Douglas (ECC), and Julie Schaid (ECC).

#### **Team Updates -**

- The ELL Team completed its first full year as an Alliance Team. The Team had excellent attendance with approximately 15 people attending the ELL Team meetings throughout the year. Mary Perkins, Peggy Heinrich and Gina Crespo were co-chairs of the team. The team broke into two sub-committees: one exploring curriculum alignment and one exploring high school-to-college transition experiences for ELL students. Next year the team will identify a specific focus area to move forward with a project area.
- The Science/STEM Team focused on professional development this year. In December, they brought in Dr. James Pellegrino to discuss the New Science Framework, which is the basis for the next generation of K-12 science standards. Ninety faculty attended the meeting. The team also hosted a session focused on writing skills needed for college-level lab reports. The science team added several middle school teachers to their team and doubled their average attendance at team meetings. Dr. Stirn suggested the STEM Team might be interested in inviting Mr. Ron Bullock, from Bison Engineering to speak about integrating projects into science lessons.
- The Student Services & Parent Involvement Team had two new co-chairs this year: Peggy Gundrum and Chris Columbaro. The Team encouraged high school seniors to attend the Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> College Smart Fair at ECC to learn more about planning financially for college. In March, the team hosted the first annual Senior Transition Day – the event focused on understanding and preparing for college placement tests and on the NCRC certification. The team will host a new parent event in fall 2012.
- The Writing Team developed a presentation aimed at high school seniors understanding the writing portion of the ECC placement test. The presentation was given by a high school and college faculty member and was piloted at two high schools this spring – Central HS & Bartlett HS.

- The Math Team spent its time this year developing a 4<sup>th</sup> year high school math course for students who would not normally consider taking a 4<sup>th</sup> year of math. The actual curriculum development will take place over the summer and is being supported in part by a grant.
- The Reading Team created a literacy survey for middle school, high school and college faculty. 862 faculty responded to the survey. Results will be analyzed and shared in aggregate form with the high schools and the college and will be used to develop additional professional development for faculty.
- National Clearinghouse data project - This team has agreed to become the Alliance Data Team and continue meeting. This year the team identified a Community College District 509 high school graduate college-going rate and 1<sup>st</sup> year to 2<sup>nd</sup> year college persistence rate. Data will be shared with the districts, the college, and with the general public.

### **Other Updates/Discussion Topics:**

- Literacy Grant – ECC worked with 7 other community colleges and NIU to create & offer workshops on literacy strategies to help students’ reading in the disciplines and in CTE courses. ECC hosted 29 faculty at a science literacy workshop & follow-up session. Thanks to the schools for providing substitutes for these faculty to attend. We now have a template and may be able to repeat the workshop for math, social science and CTE faculty.
- The Alliance will be hosting the Summer Bridge again – we are in the process of selecting and hiring the Bridge faculty and are actively recruiting students.
- Julie reviewed the plan for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Alliance meeting – all teams will provide progress reports on their work and the goal is to look for areas of synergy or collaboration for next year.
- The Alliance sent a team to the April 13<sup>th</sup> workshop on the Common Core State Standards hosted by ICCB. One important take away was 4 types of alignment is needed:
  - Current standards to Common Core Standards
  - Curriculum to Common Core Standards
  - Lesson Plans to Common Core Standards
  - Assessments to Common Core Standards

### **Alliance Focus Areas for 2012-13**

- The Advisory Committee reviewed the current focus areas for the Alliance: Middle Schools, ELL students, Data sharing, Professional Development focused on the CCSS & college completion, and Communicating a Culture of College & Career Readiness (including parent communications). The recommendation was to remove ELL from the focus areas now that it has its own team. All the other focus areas will be continued. The schools felt strongly that middle school should stay a focus area.
- The Alliance will keep the general structure of the 3 big meetings: Sept. – kick-off, January – external speaker & May – celebration.

### **Meeting adjourned.**