Workforce Learning Summit Innovation/Best Practice

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute (CCC&TI)

Community College-Public School Collaboration—Middle School through Community College

Area leaders have taken advantage of the long history of collaboration between the College and area public schools to expand college programming for high school students, encourage middle school students to pursue post-secondary education and create a seamless transition between secondary education and CCC&TI. The college has achieved scale in its efforts, with 689 high school students earning college credits in 2012-13. High school programs represent the 2nd largest program at Caldwell, after College Transfer.

DETAILS

Area leaders have taken advantage of the long history of collaboration between the College and area public schools to expand college programming for high school and middle school students and create a seamless transition between secondary education and CCC&TI.

Caldwell and Watauga Cooperative Leadership Councils involve representatives from both school districts and the community college in monthly meetings (one per county) to discuss programs, concerns and questions. Meetings involve multiple levels of leadership and expertise, including top educational leaders for the area (community college president, school superintendents), middle and high school principals, community college vice presidents, Career and Technical Education directors, CCC&TI and schools’ advising and career development staff including Transition Advisors. (See “Proven Partnerships that Work” handout for specific titles.) Caldwell County leaders have also set up a Leadership Advisory Council that meets twice a year, composed of the types of participants referenced above, plus local community and business leaders.

CCC&TI has five Transition Advisors they base at area high schools who promote the cooperative programs and assist students in enrolling in college courses at CCC&TI or other postsecondary institutions.

College programs for high school students (http://www.cccti.edu/HSS/HighSchoolPrograms.html):

- Career and College Promise – includes high school juniors and seniors
- Cooperative Innovative High School Programs
  - Caldwell Career Center Middle College – four-year high school program with academies in Advanced Technology, Engineering and Life Sciences resulting in industry credentials
  - Caldwell Early College High School – five-year high school program, with opportunity to earn a two-year college transfer associate degree

Initiatives to promote high school graduation and postsecondary enrollment, starting in middle school:

- TRIO – Educational Talent Search, or ETS (http://www.cccti.edu/TRIO/ETS/ETShome.htm)
Serves up to 600 middle and high school students, promoting high school graduation and post-secondary enrollment.

- **Dream Scholars Program**
  - Incentive program awarded to sixth grade students who will be first generation college students to encourage students to maintain good grades, graduate and enroll in postsecondary education. *Participants are guaranteed two years of tuition paid at CCC&TI.*

Implementation of initiatives began on the following dates:

- 2005 – Transition Advisors
- 2002 – TRIO ETS
- 1989 – Dream Program

**Partner Type(s):**
- Public Schools

**Impact/Outcomes**

**College programs for high school students:**

- In 2012-13, 689 high school students earned 6,805 college credit hours, a tuition savings of $469,545.
- In 2012-13, 70 high school students earned college credentials.
- Number of high school students enrolled in college courses:
  - Fall 2012: 601
  - Spring 2013: 609
  - Fall 2013: 717
  - Spring 2014: 722

**TRIO-ETS:**
- For 2012-13, the ETS student graduation rate was 100% and postsecondary enrollment was 93%.

**Dream Scholars Program:**
- Seventy percent of Dream Scholars currently old enough to attend CCC&TI are enrolled.
- As of 2013, CCC&TI has awarded over 1,000 Dream Scholar Awards.

**Funding Source(s)**

State, federal, and local dollars are utilized to fund cooperative initiatives between the college and the public schools. Transition Advisors are college employees and are paid from state funds (approximately $175,000 annually). TRIO ETS Counselor positions are funded through the federal TRIO grant (total ETS grant is approximately $225,000 annually). Funding that supports the Dream tuition guarantee is donated to the CCC&TI Foundation through individual/business contributions (approximately $52,000 annually).

**REFLECTIONS**

**Innovation or Best Practice**

CCC&TI’s initiatives with the public schools are helping achieve seamlessness in education. The reach into the high school (and middle school) population and the initiatives’ outcomes are significant. The use of college resources and energy to reach younger students and at-risk students is noteworthy.
Lessons Learned
The college and public school system must be committed to remaining flexible and working collaboratively to maximize educational opportunities for students. Staying true to this commitment is paramount to dealing with inherent differences between the educational entities as well as any difficulties that may arise. The Leadership Council monthly meetings represent a best practice that allows for all key participants to be at the table and make decisions expeditiously. Having Transition Advisors in the high schools allows college staff to become fully integrated into the high school environment and creates a sense of trust and credibility between the public school system and the college.

Scalability
Scalability would depend on the size of college and the school system(s) served and resources available. We are a medium sized college serving two school districts with four traditional high schools and two cooperative innovative high schools. Our model in its entirety or in part could be replicated based upon state, federal, and local dollars available.

RESOURCES

Workforce Learning Summit Presenters
CCCTI: President Ken Boham, Mark Poarch (Executive Vice President), Margaret Hampson (Vice President, Curriculum and Adult Education)

K-12: Carol Burns (Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services, Caldwell County Schools), Katrina McEllen (High School Education Director, Caldwell County Schools), David Fonseca (Interim Superintendent, Watauga County Schools), Marshall Gasperson (Principal, Watauga High School)

Links
www.cccti.edu/HSS/HighSchoolPrograms.html; www.cccti.edu/TRIO/ETS/ETShome.htm

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