

SuccessNC Overview

Background:

The initiative was launched in February 2010 when North Carolina community college leaders set out to find constructive ways to improve their 58 educational institutions by holding a listening tour that took one of two teams to each college in the state for a town-hall style meeting.

The listening tour concluded at Blue Ridge Community College in October 2010, timed to coincide with a State Board of Community Colleges planning retreat at Blue Ridge Community College. The board had authorized the tour a year earlier, and they were eager to learn more about the results that detailed barriers to student success and innovations to facilitate student success.

As the next step in the process, the Innovative Ideas Committee was appointed by Dr. Ralls. Working between August 2010 and October 2011, this group of college and NCCCS administrators along with a State Board representative analyzed the compilation of best practices and barriers to find a systematic approach to planning for new levels of student success.

After developing and reviewing the reports from the subcommittees, the Innovative Ideas Committee chairs selected the Completion by Design Framework as an appropriate vehicle for organizing and presenting the recommendations of the group. Each recommendation supports one of the four Completion by Design progress components-- Connection, Entry, Progress and Completion.

Also in 2010, the Performance Measures and Performance Funding committees were created to review the current performance measures and performance funding model and recommend changes to the State Board of Community Colleges. The committee's recommendations were approved by the State Board and the General Assembly, these changes were reflected in the 2013 budget.

THE FRAMEWORK OF SUCCESSNC

The SuccessNC initiative was developed and implemented to improve community college student success across the state.

Three guiding goals of SuccessNC:

- 1) Improve Access:** Develop policies and practices that provide more opportunities for students to enter post-secondary education and training programs and successfully complete their program of study.
- 2) Enhance Quality:** Examine and continually improve rigor, relevance and quality in all academic and training opportunities to ensure that successful completion equates to a competitive position in the workforce or successful completion of higher education goals.

3) Increase Success: Increase the number of students leaving with a job-ready credential that can lead to becoming a successful employee or employer in a global economy and provide for stronger skills, better jobs, better pay and continued educational attainment.

The SuccessNC student experience is tracked on four levels:

1) Connection

Initiatives:

Basic Skills Plus, is a program that combines GED classes with college technical courses to accelerate students' entry into the skilled workforce.

- **Status Update:**

- Coordinated and hosted Transitions Sessions for 150 staff members from Basic Skills Plus programs at 2013 Basic Skills and Training Academy. Coordinated panel presentations from Gaston Literacy, South Piedmont CC, Davidson County CC, and College of the Albemarle.
- Held technical assistance webinar session with nine colleges to help them prepare their Basic Skills Plus Application-August 13, 2013.

Career and College Promise allows high school students to take community college classes and earn college credits tuition-free while still in high school.

- **Status Update:** All 58 colleges offer at least two pathways (pathways include Humanities, Business, Engineering, and Health & Life Sciences). 49 colleges offer the Engineering pathway, 53 offer the Health & Science pathway.

Common Core Alignment (NC Ready for Success), is aligning curriculum across K12 schools, community colleges and universities to facilitate a more coherent and consistent system of postsecondary enrollment and success across the state.

- **Status Update:** Over 23 proposals have been received as a part of our statewide RFP to encourage greater partnership alignment between higher education and secondary stakeholders and 7 have been selected as award recipients. These 7 awards will be presented to the SBCC this week for official allocations.

Career and Technical Education High School to College Articulation allows high school students to get community college credit for completing approved high school courses and demonstrating proficiency in the subject.

- **Status Update:** 21 new courses suggested for inclusion in the comprehensive agreement.

2) Entry

Initiatives:

Developmental Education Initiative is bringing about changes in the state's developmental education curricula to accelerate student completion, implement diagnostic testing and increase the number of students who successfully complete developmental education and then pass college-level courses in the same subject.

- **Status Update:** The State Board of Community Colleges approved NC Diagnostic Assessment and Placement test (NC DAP) testing policies at its March 2013 meeting. The test will be released in April 2014.

Financial Aid Simplification is helping college financial aid staff to expedite student financial aid awards while improving accuracy through contracting for some document processing.

- **Status Update:** For the 2013-14 academic year, 11 colleges are participating in the contract to outsource verification of student financial aid data; the verification of this data is required to comply with federal financial aid rules.

Math Pathways Curriculum Improvement Project is looking at the relevance and rigor of math instructions in North Carolina community colleges and redefining appropriate mathematics pathways to support STEM and non-STEM curriculum programs in the state's colleges and universities.

- **Status Update:** Creating two new courses (Quantitative Literature course, Statistical Methods course); proposing to revise 13 existing courses, and archiving 13 courses plus 15 associated math lab courses.

3) Progress

Initiatives:

The Minority Male Mentoring Program is a student coaching program designed to help minority male community college students stay in college, graduate and transfer to four-year colleges and universities at higher rates.

- **Status Update:** Program participants were retained at 78% (n=1,186) rate compared to 68% (n=30,453) in 2012 for men-of-color not in the program and compared to 71% (n=63,590) of non-minority/white males. These retention rates compare favorably to all students who were retained at 71% (n=245,187).

Code Green Super Curriculum Improvement Project (CIP) streamlines curriculum standards and recognizes the value of granting college credit for industry-recognized credentials earned through non-credit courses.

- **Status Update:** All 58 colleges are implementing changes in their programs of study. The initiative created 47 new courses, revised 219 courses, and archived 92 courses.

Integrated Teaching and Learning Gateway is proposed to be an Internet-based platform that consolidates teaching, learning and professional development resources for college-credit and continuing education programs into a single searchable platform for use by community college faculty and staff.

- **Status Update:** The Beta site has been completed for the Teaching and Learning Gateway. The domain name and a designated email address for the new site has been requested in anticipation of the hard launch of the website.

Comprehensive Articulation Agreement Revision and Reverse Transfer Credit will restructure the transfer agreement between NC Community Colleges and the University of North Carolina to create transfer-guaranteed general education core pathways.

4) Completion

Initiatives:

Data Initiative is creating a robust institutional performance and student outcome system for NC Community Colleges to meet the need for accurate, timely and accessible data beyond the scope now available.

- **Status Update:**
 - SAS formalized partnership, which includes data tools and hosting
 - The identification and deployment of Initiative teams, which includes approximately 200 individuals from our colleges, the System Office, and our partners.

Performance Measures & Funding Eight performance measures were identified.

- **Status Update:** For FY 2013-14, a total of \$9 million will be allocated to colleges based on their performance on six of the eight measures. (Basic Skills student progress and GED attainment will not be used in FY 2013-14 allocations.) In FY 2014-15, a total of \$24 million will be allocated to colleges based on their performance on the eight measures.

Completion by Design aims to build on proven, existing practices already underway at a number of forward-thinking community colleges.

- **Status Update:** The first five colleges have been leading a second group of colleges, known as CbD 2.0, in implementing Completion by Design on their campuses. Planning is underway for the first institute that starts at GTCC this fall.
- **CONCLUSION/ FUTURE PLANS** - A comprehensive draft of the SuccessNC Report will be available at the October State Board Planning Meeting for review. The final report is anticipated in December 2013.

The next program development process, which will begin January 2014, will include Economic & Workforce Development.