

DE-CAN
(Delaware College Access Network)
Notes
January 25, 2008

Welcome

Dr. Joseph Pika, Chair of DE-CAN, welcomed the subcommittee members to the inaugural meeting. The meeting was held in the Cabinet Room of the Townsend Building in Dover, DE. DE-CAN is a subcommittee under the aegis of the P-20 Council.

Dr. Pika noted that the subcommittee members had received a copy of the DE-CAN framework statement adopted by the P-20. He then called on the P-20 Council co-chair, Mrs. Jean Allen for comments. Mrs. Allen stated that the work of this subcommittee is the next logical step to the work of the P-20 Council. Mrs. Woodruff, the other co-chair, added that Delaware's P-20 efforts have received much national attention. She noted all of the efforts that have preceded the work of this subcommittee and how it all works together: revising graduation requirements; aligning curricula between high school and college; clarifying college admission requirements; developing a framework to encourage dual-enrollment and dual-credit offerings in the state; the NGA grant secured by DOE to encourage families to consider college and prepare for post-secondary success.

Mission & Objectives:

Mission: The primary mission of DE-CAN is to strengthen the preparation of public school students in Delaware to ensure their college readiness and ability to succeed in work readiness programs, as well as degree attainment from two- and four-year college degree programs.

DE-CAN Objectives:

1. Develop and Strengthen Public Support for Increasing Academic Rigor
2. Support Student Access to a State-wide Network of College Preparatory Activities.
3. Develop a Community-wide Academic Support Infrastructure.
4. Use data to measure student access and success in higher education.
5. Develop a financial plan to support DE-CAN.

Mrs. Woodruff noted that the subcommittee should explore grant funding from the Lumina Foundation. The grant should be multi-year, be based on a broad partnership, and reflect the above stated objectives. It was agreed that upcoming conversations between Rodel, UD and Lumina would be only exploratory at this point, designed to get a sense of Lumina's priorities and how they align with Delaware's goals.

Discussion occurred raising the following points:

- Broad-based community awareness of the need for college readiness and work readiness as well as financial resources needs to be greatly increased. Parent Leadership training and student voices and leadership training are under way but could be greatly expanded with additional resources.
- Middle school and high school counselors need to be part of the discussions but they can't be solely responsible for getting information out.
- Emphasis needs to be placed on access and persistence leading to success
- Higher education institutions need to set benchmarks regarding the student success of their undergraduates. Based on discussions, many of Delaware's institutions for higher education have begun to have such discussions individually.
- We need to catalogue the various programs and offerings that higher education institutions have made available to middle and high school age students.
- Gaps and overlaps should be identified.
- Extended learning opportunities offered by community providers also need to be included. Work is taking place to catalogue these offerings in preparation for a Governor's Summit on Extended Learning Time to be held in May, and we can build off of those.
- There needs to be a single portal for access to all of the on-line information available to students and their families such as "Career Cruising," "Yes, You Can," "GoingtoCollege.org." as well as other web-based sites of interest.
- There is potential to qualify for a College Access Challenge Grant of up to \$330,000.
- Performance measures need to be built into whatever plan is devised and proposed.
- Attention must be paid to the student fit to the institution and/or program of study and supports need to be in place.

Next Steps: Developing a Plan

The first step in developing a comprehensive plan to support the mission and objectives is to inventory what is currently taking place. A swat analysis will be conducted to find that information.

- Melva Ware will supply Judi Coffield with a template to gather the higher education inventory of programs and offerings for high school and middle school students.
- Judi Coffield will work with Kim Hoffman to identify the community based learning opportunities.
- Susan Haberstroh will provide a listing of web sites and ideas on how they might be consolidated or more effectively linked.

Increased college access for all students should be the goal for Delaware and as a part of that, particular attention needs to be paid to historically under-represented groups.

- SEED data would be helpful to see what students are entering the higher education system in addition to the data from the specific institutions regarding student body composition

Data systems that will provide information to measure success are also important. The higher education data cube is the logical vehicle. It is close to being accessible by the institutions and high schools.

Preliminary information on the Lumina Grant and the College Access Challenge Grant will be researched and reported back to the committee as it continues to move toward constructing a cohesive plan of action.

Meeting Schedule

The DE-CAN Subcommittee will meet as follows:

Friday, February 29	9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cabinet Room Townsend Building
Friday, March 28	9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cabinet Room Townsend Building
Friday, April 25	9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cabinet Room Townsend Building
Friday, May 30	9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cabinet Room Townsend Building