

**Delaware College Access Network
(DECAN)
Meeting Notes for June 10, 2010
Cabinet Room, Townsend Building
2:00- 4:00 p.m.**

Welcome/Introductions

Dr. Judi Coffield, Staff to the DECAN Subcommittee, welcomed committee members. She explained that Dr. Pika was not able to attend the meeting and that she would be facilitating. Members in attendance were Glenn Davidson, Lake Forest; Joe Fitzpatrick and Frank Livoy, RELM-A; Rebecca Fox-Lykens, DSU; Susan Haberstroh, DOE; Maureen Laffey and Alan Phillips, DHEC; Kelly Sherretz, UD; Debbie Stevens, DSEA; Judi Coffield, SBE/P-20 Council.

Project Updates

College Access Challenge Grant-

- The planning committee for the CACG Conference provided an overview of the day's agenda. A copy of the flyer and a tri-fold brochure were shared. In addition, the afternoon agenda was distributed and all breakout sessions were discussed. All session providers were asked to develop hands-on, engaging sessions that go beyond a stand and deliver format.

There was concern by committee members that the time allocated for the afternoon breakout sessions would not be adequate to address all four modules of the toolkit created by the MAEC. Members expressed that the rollout training should also include content for the CBOs that addressed delivery of instruction to adults. In addition, some members found errors in the accuracy of the content of the toolkit. Others expressed the same concern about the source and accuracy of the content and that there were missing citations. The consensus was that the toolkit is not ready for publication and would benefit from some additional time to 1) make certain that it reflects accurate information and 2) ensure it contains content related to adult learners and effective delivery for those who will be presenting the material.

The committee members believe that the amount of content in the four modules plus the addition of a "how to deliver the content" module/section warrants a full-day session for roll-out and suggested a "generic/general" session at the conference regarding how CBOs can promote college going without using the toolkit at this time. This new session could be an introduction and promotional session that would then feed into a full-day rollout of the final toolkit sometime in the fall. There was agreement that the toolkit not be distributed until it is revised.

Joe Fitzpatrick and Frank Livoy from the Regional Education Lab Mid-Atlantic discussed the morning bridge event and the current registration numbers. At this point, they are very pleased with the enrollment.

Date: June 24, 2010
Location: DSU, MLK Student Center
IES Practice Guide- *Helping Students Navigate the Path to College: What High Schools Can Do* (Neil Finkelstein)

The CACG conference planning committee will meet on June 15, 2010 to review detailed session descriptions and to finalize any last minute logistics.

Communications Campaign-

- Dr. Susan Haberstroh provided an update on the progress of the Communications efforts. The Department of Education will have a booth at the 61st Annual Delmarva Chicken Festival at the Martin Luther King Student Center on the Delaware State University campus to promote the YES YOU CAN! website and initiative. (www.yesyoucande.com is). The dates are Friday, June 18th and Saturday June 19th. The YESYOU CAN! website is the portal that provides students, parents, educators and others with resources and information as students prepare for post secondary opportunities. Students can go directly to their Student Success Plans from this website. This is part of our work to promote college access and success. This work is also part of DECAN (Delaware College Access Network), a subcommittee of the P-20 Council and the College Access Challenge Grant. One of the goals from our participation at the Festival is to get the word out about this resource.

The festival runs from 10:00am until 8:00pm both days. We need help to cover the exhibit booth times. We are breaking the days into 2 hour time slots. We will have “fans” and magnets and other material to provide to attendees of the festival. I understand this is quite an event!

We would greatly appreciate your help. Please contact Louise Warfield with your name in a timeslot if you are able to help. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Susan (735-4008) or Louise (735-4025).

DECAN Tier III Pilots-

- Dr. Judi Coffield provided an update on the Tier III Pilots. Three districts have confirmed their participation. Captial School District’s Dover High and Central Middle School are the Kent County schools participating. Dr. Coffield reviewed the strategies and measures proposed in their plan. Laurel High School and Middle School are the Sussex County schools that were targeted using the data for college going in the longitudinal data system. Their plan will be received either later this afternoon or tomorrow. Finally, Christina School District is the New Castle County participant. They will be working with Bayard Middle School located in the City of Wilmington for this project. They have just recently come on board and will need some time to prepare their proposal.

New CACG Proposal-

- Dr. Coffield then reviewed the new 2010 CACG grant application. The new proposal will be due July 2, 2010. This is a federal formula grant, but the grants are much larger in size this time around. The allocation is \$1.5 million per year for five years. The proposals are submitted annually, but states can plan over multiple years. We were initially concerned about the match requirements, but have resolved that issue.

The purpose of the College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACGP) is to foster partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and philanthropic organizations through matching challenge grants aimed at increasing the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Projects are authorized to provide information to students and families regarding postsecondary education and career preparation; promote financial literacy and debt management; conduct outreach activities; assist students in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA); provide need-based grant aid; conduct professional development for guidance counselors at middle and secondary schools, financial aid administrators, and college admissions counselors; and offer student loan cancellation or repayment or interest rate reductions for borrowers who are employed in a high-need geographical area or a high need profession. (Funds cannot be used to promote any lender's loans.)

CACG Project Authorized Activities/Services:

- 1) Provide information to students and families on postsecondary education benefits, opportunities, planning and career preparation;
- 2) Provide information on financing options, including activities that promote financial literacy and debt management among students and families;
- 3) Conduct outreach activities for students who may be at risk of not enrolling in or completing college;
- 4) Assist students in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- 5) Offer need based grant aid to students;
- 6) Implement professional development for guidance counselors at middle and secondary schools, and financial aid administrators and college admissions counselors at institutions of higher education, to improve such individuals' capacity to assist students and parents with:
 - a) Understanding:
 - Entrance requirements for admission to institutions of higher education, and
 - State eligibility requirements for Academic Competitiveness Grants or National SMART Grants;
 - b) Applying to institutions of higher education, applying for financial assistance and scholarships;
 - c) Activities that increase students' ability to successfully complete the coursework required for a postsecondary degree (including tutoring and mentoring); and

- d) Activities to improve secondary school students' preparedness for postsecondary entrance examinations.
- 7) Repayment of student loans, student loan cancellation, or lowering of interest rates.
States are not allowed to use funds to promote any lender's loans.

Dr. Coffield then shared an initial brainstormed list of potential activities for the new CACG proposal and solicited feedback and additional ideas from the committee members. The group identified the following potential activities with a real desire to implement PSAT to all students and to develop or promote the planning of Delaware's first Early College:

Brainstorm of Potential Activities:

- Fund maintenance fees for Academy One \$5,000 annually/3 yrs
 - Fund Student Success Plans use of Career Cruising \$90,000 annually
 - Fund Ongoing Communication Campaign \$100,000 annually
 - Fund Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Courses for students Cost?
*Target low income/ first generation & minorities
 - Registration
 - Tuition
 - Books/fees
 - Travel?
 - Fund DECAN Tier III Outreach
 - Continue to fund pilot districts \$30,000 annually
 - Expand pilot to 3 more districts \$30,000 annually
 - Fund Regional College Fairs
 - Fund College Visits
 - High School Students
 - Middle School Students
 - Fund Annual Conference to provide PD to guidance counselors and others
 - Provide grants to IHEs and/or CBOs for pre-collegiate programs
 - **Fund PSAT exams for all DE students \$13 per student**
 - Fund grants to IHEs to explore/develop programs to support students in credit bearing courses vs. placing them in remedial programs
 - **Support the development of a plan for an Early College Program**
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- Dr. Coffield then shared a draft of the DECAN Progress Report to the P-20 Council with the group. She explained that the chairs of three subcommittees (DECAN, DE's Promise and Early Childhood) were asked to present progress reports to the full P-20 Council at the next meeting on July 29, 2010. The progress reports were to address the subcommittees' charge, membership, accomplishments, barriers and recommendations for next steps. It made sense to the committee members to incorporate some of the items listed in the brainstorm session for the CACG proposal into the recommended next steps for DECAN. Dr. Coffield will email the draft to all committee members to solicit additional feedback by June 21st and will share the revised version via email for another look prior to the July 29th meeting of the P-20 Council.

- Due to time constraints, the committee decided to postpone Alan Phillips presentation on potential reporting possibilities until the next meeting.
- The next meeting will be set using the “Doodle” online tool for a date after the July 29th meeting of the P-20 Council so that their feedback can be shared with the subcommittee.
- The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.