

DE-CAN
(Delaware College Access Network)
Meeting Notes
February 29, 2008

Reminder: If you have not yet attended a session of this committee or had to be absent for the February meeting, please put it on your calendar. Future meetings are March 28, April 25 and May 30. All meetings are in the DOE Board Room at 9:30 a.m.

Welcome

Dr. Joseph Pika, Chair of DE-CAN, welcomed the subcommittee members to the meeting. The meeting was held in the Cabinet Room of the Townsend Building in Dover, DE. Introductions were made by those present.

Dr. Pika reviewed the highlights of the previous meeting held on January 25. He noted that this initiative was one with several sub-parts aimed at increasing student access to higher education. He went on to state that the committee must consider if our goal will be to knit together the issues in a larger, comprehensive goal or to concentrate on particular issues.

Ms. Edie Corbel told the group of the upcoming Extended Learning Opportunities Summit that will take place on May 14, 2008 at the Outlook in the Duncan Center in Dover. The goal of the summit is to increase awareness about best practices and provide an opportunity for networking between educators, business/community partners and ELO providers.

Dr. Pika informed the group of the Education and Summer Activity Expo that will be held in conjunction with the Home Show at the Chase Center on the Wilmington Riverfront on Saturday, March 8, 2008. DOE, UD, Rodel, and others will sponsor informational booths at the expo.

Dr. Susan Haberstroh provided a demonstration of the work that was compiled regarding websites that are aimed at supporting college access. She asked that anyone with additional websites e-mail her the details so that they can be added to the resource. shaberstroh@doe.k12.de.us

Dr. Judi Coffield presented a compilation of the pre-collegiate activities that are being offered in Delaware by the institutions of higher learning. A template was created to gather data about each program. The document has incomplete information for some programs. Judi asked that any additional information be sent to her so that this resource could be updated. The document will be e-mailed to participants so that they can update as necessary.

Mr. Paul Herdman and Mr. John Carwell of the Rodel Foundation, and Ms. Maureen Laffey, director of the Delaware Higher Education Commission provided a report of the findings of the visit to the Lumina Foundation in Indianapolis. Ms. Melva Ware, representative from the University of Delaware also attended the Lumina meeting, but was not able to attend today's meeting. The foundation's goal is to increase college attainment among 25-35 year olds from 40% to 60% nationwide and is looking to invest in systemic initiatives that approach college access from a student perspective. Emphasis was placed on early, ongoing communication beginning in middle schools and continued

support after students reach college. They also felt that it was important to incorporate work with parents into the proposal and that there was value in being affiliated with the National College Access Network. Georgia, Indiana and California were highlighted as examples of states leading the way with this work.

Mr. Herdman noted that there is a need to develop a common vision of DECAN that is innovative, aggressive and statewide to go after this funding. Those who attended the meeting felt that Delaware was seen in a favorable light due to our integrated, collaborative approach to this task and the systemic reform conversations already under way. Mr. Herdman suggested three areas of focus for a Delaware proposal: 1) Access 2) Alignment and Rigor and 3) Actionable Networks.

Dr. Whittaker stated that Delaware is working hard to ensure both college and workplace readiness. While many reports support the notion that the entry level skills for work and freshman year of college are the same, clarification was provide stating that this committee’s charge was to focus on college attendance. Conversation then turned to a need for clear expectations from Universities and Colleges regarding their expectations and requirements for admissions. Dr. Pika posed the question as to whether all of the higher eds had embraced the commitment to Delawareans.

Several handouts were shared. Attention was called to *Measuring Up 2006 State Report Card on Higher Education* www.highereducation.org , The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education Policy Alert- *The Educational Pipeline: Big Investment, Big Returns* www.highereducation.org, and the Delaware report from the *Knocking at the College Door* projections www.wiche.edu . These documents provided data regarding the access gap and affordability. Dr. Pika, echoing the views of Ms. Allen, president of the State Board of Education and co-chair of the P-20 Council, again stated that the committee couldn’t fix everything and that the committee needs to be really specific about the objectives we want to address.

Dr. Jennifer Bausmith from the regional lab directed the group to the original goals/objectives distributed at the first meeting. As originally proposed DECAN would focus on public support, student access to a statewide network of college prep activities, a community wide academic support infrastructure, data and a financial plan. Dr. Bausmith will be working with our group to develop evaluation metrics. She also shared information about related research that has been proposed by the lab.

Dr. Pika asked that between this meeting and the March 28th meeting committee members think about how we can narrow the objects and focus. A smaller working group of the committee will also meet to discuss the financial landscape in Delaware and present their findings at the March meeting.

Meeting Schedule

The DE-CAN Subcommittee will meet as follows:

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