

Governor's Education Summit: April 28, 2009

Breaking through Barriers: Building a Network for College Access & Success

Regional Breakout Session **GREATER JACKSON**

1. Is access an issue in our community?

- Students see it as cost barrier
- Parents need to do the financial forms
- Perceived as not able to dream this for their children.
- Assumption of going on to college does not mean parents are ready to help get through the proper work
- Many capable kids are not succeeding in college- dropping out because they are not prepared

2. What have you heard that resonated with you?

- Lots of materials on early awareness programs. Much of it is free.
- Very successful schools were talking about college as the means to personal goals, next the goal.
- Making colleges visible in buildings, hanging their diplomas, etc.
- Push more students into higher level classes, today we push the problem on to the community colleges.
- Lenawee partnership with JCC- building has been full from day one!
- Dual enrollment has opened some student's eyes and created a financial benefit to them too.
- Encouraging students to take advantage of dual enrollment as scenario to get them moving with more support.
- How do we get students to active consumers?
 - The DNA of career planning
 - Empower our children
- Not necessarily use articulation as strongly as we could, but students are becoming advocates.
- Discussion about web portal
 - How do you reach out beyond web access?
- The career pathways piece is so important
 - Help reduce the percent of college freshman also change major because of no pre-planning.
 - Students are delaying going or attending with a less than committed attitude because they haven't decided why they are there.

3. Aspects

- Education K-12, JCC, Baker, boy/girl scouts- Let's look at math as a discipline- i.e. United Way Chamber of Commerce, Adrian Dominicans, Michigan Works, Youth GED, Largest employers, Achievement

4. **Interesting gaps in services**

- The strengths is the size of the gap. We have a lot going on and maybe we need to connect the resources better to make sure people know.
- Look at the systems way to be sure all students are contacted- must be intentional.
- We need to consider the needs of the larger community and the non-traditional student
 - Displaced workers
 - Students who have dropped out and are dropping back in
 - Students with disabilities and special learning needs
- Adults really need to stay involved.
 - College placement test prep
 - Tutoring volunteers
 - Affordable night day care for students
 - Clearing house for all info/activity in careers pack??

5. **Is there an advantage to having a regional approach?**

- Does it make sense- yes because so much is already shared by the three counties.
- The Jackson College Access in collaboration with the SCMW – Regional Skills Committee will facilitate a future meeting.