

Governor's Education Summit: April 28, 2009

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

Regional Breakout Session LIVINGSTON/MONROE/WASHTENAW

Region 4 Session Notes:

What do we do from here? Ideas from here? Is College Access an issue for you?

- In Monroe: the "expectation is still some go to college, some don't"
- We have a middle college opening in the fall, it helps those who struggle with barriers especially in an agriculture and manufacturing culture
- We work with leaders and parents to get expectations for all to go to college
- The state is moving from manufacturing to information -based system and service providing economy, many still believe there are good jobs possible without a college degree
- In the US, MI ranks 34th in BA or above rates

What can we do to make more people aware?

- Washtenaw: has a high percentage aim to get a BA college degree, but for some college access is not apparent and many are unaware. The community shuts these folks out.
- We started a charter school and an early college alliance
- We make it available for all students
- MCAN Program – how can communities be able to partner?
- The YWCA could house similar programs
- Barrier: Kids don't see themselves in college setting, few students spent time on university campus, unable to show what a campus is like
- Need to increase K-12 student awareness of college, college readiness also needs to increase
- One individual encouraged people in the meeting to be concerned about those with cognitive challenges – those in transition, the 18-26 are employed but need basic skills, but the Community Colleges and universities close the doors
- We could use federal money, to contribute to increasing those with skills
- Ann Arbor: Flanagan made the point that the state doesn't have any money, the state needs to get more effective leadership on the resources question; state isn't fighting for money
- We need coalitions of parents, business, schools to handle the financial issues
- Issue of pushing people into college, but not recognizing the realities of debt and the costs of college attendance: money for PSE has declined, fees have increased
- Districts can give young the want tto go but can't in good conscience send when it is too expensive

- Michigan needs to diversify its economy to get students to stay in Michigan

What should Michigan do about the structural problem of the cost of college?

- States want innovation, but the other side of innovation is bankruptcy – state is hard on bankruptcy – would go to FL or AZ for a new business
- Its all interconnected

Are there different ways to think about the college part?

- Early college alliance – state students thinking with college early, accelerate college make it less expensive – freshman labeled as a junior
- Need to do a better job providing support so they are not going on to repeat using their financial aid allotments
- Some unis are encouraging taking 6 years to complete – need to fix
- Need to encourage students to diversify and qualify for more than just one job
- Educational Development Plans – don't know why we have them, they just sit there could be used on an annual basis as a living document to help plan
- Ann Arbor: into early college but there are limiting programs because of funding – need creative ways to fund

What are the next steps?

- Livingston County has a higher ed network, we work with public schools; start at the middle school level talking to kids, way to start to pull together
- Partnership is the only way to approach
- EMU and UM are willing to facilitate conversations for the region
- Need to talk about reentry based on the demographics
- Nov. 16th precollege and outreach conference; Nov. 15th focus on MCAN
- State should offer a tuition waiver if they go to school in Mi to stay in MI and work – loan reimbursement scheme