

Governor's Education Summit: April 28, 2009

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

Regional Breakout Session SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN

Notes:

Part I: Developing a Shared Vision for College Participation

- Need to capture people for preparation in jobs.

Part II: Identify Gaps in Services

- Communication between separate organizations
 - Who is receiving scholarships?
 - Are we meeting the community need?
- Equity created by Promise Zones
 - Creating a fair opportunity
 - Redistribution of scholarship to region not served in zone.
- Looking at the College Access Portal
 - Make sure people have the technology access.
- Language Deficient/Proficient Families
 - Utilize service learning projects.
- Career Exploration in local area
 - Encourage students to return home.
- Encourage High School Career Guidance
- Encourage Media to cover "USEFUL" information about college opportunities
 - Not just highlighting programs, but highlighting the process.
 - How to maximize dollars at community college level when transferring to a four-year school.
 - Information about MACRAO (Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers) – This organizations developed a "Transfer Wizard" -- <http://www.michigantransfernetnetwork.org/>
- Demystifying: Mindset shift of the importance of college – A College Going Culture
 - Need to get information early – 6th grade
 - Make a connection for why?
 - How does the high school experience relate to college
 - Focus on kids who may not have hope
 - Need Advocacy
 - Bad parental experience continues negative experience to next generation
 - Parents need support and knowledge
 - Fear of releasing financial information
 - Parents won't cooperate with necessary info for Pell or TIP applications.
 - Provide optimism for students whose parents will not be supportive
 - Share your message in the location where parents are

- Bad experience in school = isn't a place where parents want to meet.
- Parent to Parent Network
 - Trust Agents
- Follow-up with accountability for success once they are in
 - 2-year schools are better at this than 4-year schools
- Help students better understand difference between loans and grants
 - Know the conditions
 - Financial planning
 - Car
 - Apartment
- Economics
 - Working with local businesses
 - Internships
 - Work to bring them back to region

Part III: Next Steps

- Blur the line between high school and college
 - Graduate with associate's degree and high school diploma at the same time (Early/Middle College models)
- Start young – 6th grade – With a college going culture (don't necessarily need a career goal at 6th grade, but need to be aspiring to go to college)
- Single application for college assistance
 - Clearinghouse
 - Physical people to match them up and counsel
- Keep connected with students while they are still in college
 - It is a cycle: Education drives jobs – jobs drive education
- Use students to come back to high school and share their personal experiences
- As you build the education we become a donor state but they will come back to the region as it is a place to raise a family – there are natural resources.
- Integrate youth in all aspects – let them be ambassadors.
- Love the mall idea (The Jackson Legacy Program and Resource Center), but there are geographic boundaries (Ancillary school districts, rural areas).
- Regional entrepreneurial center
 - Come home to start your business
 - Invent
 - Develop your idea
- Raise up the region concept and build relationships

*** Brenda Hunt will provide these notes back to everyone electronically.