The Power of Statewide Collaboration in “Reclaiming the American Dream”

New Jersey Council of County Colleges
Presenters

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The American Dream is at risk and community colleges are called upon to help reclaim this dream.

As leaders, we must do our part in the following ways:

Switch Focus from Access to Success
Eradicate Achievement Gaps
Commit to a Culture of Evidence

Goal: Restore America’s dream of opportunity, community, and intergenerational upward mobility by educating an additional five million students with degrees, certificates, or other credentials by 2020.

Yes, colleges are all “ships” guided by their own captains – but they are also part of the same “fleet” that is moving toward the same destination.

Statewide collaboration can help colleges “reclaim the dream” sooner and in better ways.
**New Jersey Community Colleges**

- 19 community colleges with 70+ campuses
- Over 400,000 students
- Decentralized higher education system
- “Coordinated Autonomy”
- Colleges are governed by appointed trustees
- NJ Council of County Colleges (NJCCC), state organization comprised of both trustees and presidents, provides statewide coordination
President’s Perspective
NJ presidents knew that there is great **power in collaboration**:  
- Act collectively to create sustainable solutions – even though we aren’t “required” to work together  
- Shift from “Access” to “Access to Success”  
- Value (completion) matters as much as volume (enrollment)
Reclaiming the American Dream
New Jersey’s “Big Ideas” Project

Technology of Collaboration

Trustees

Presidents

Concept, 2009-2010
Access to Success & the Completion Agenda

Actualization, 2011-Present
Success Summits & Strategy Implementation

Planning, 2010-2011
Graduate Interns, Affinity Group Structures & White Papers
Big Ideas Project
In the State of New Jersey

Statewide Progress, 2012-2013

1. Transforming Developmental Education *
2. Aligning Expectations Between K-12 and Community Colleges *
3. Creating Student Success Data *
4. Promoting Adjunct Faculty Development *
5. Expanding Joint Purchasing Practices
6. Building Academic Consortia
7. Building Alternate Learning Delivery Systems
8. Using Core Student Learning Outcomes and Common Assessment Tools in the Top Ten Highest Enrollment General Education Courses *
Big Idea #1. Transforming Developmental Education

- **Group Focus:**
  - Building a common commitment to transforming developmental education and improving community college testing and placement.

- **Major Strategies:**
  - Offer Multiple Evidence-Based, Successful Developmental Education Models Consistent with the Needs of the Students.
  - Improve Accountability for Developmental Education Using the Student Success Model (developed by Big Idea #3).
  - Identify Alternatives for At-Risk, Underprepared Students.
  - Build Statewide Approaches to Disseminating Best Developmental Education Programs.
  - Initiate Statewide Conversation about ESL Pathways and How ESL Relates to Developmental Education Pathways.
Big Idea #1. Transforming Developmental Education

**Themes**
- Implementing Course Redesign
- Supporting Faculty Empowerment
- Engaging Student Services

**Action Plan**
- Student Success Summits
- Accelerated Learning Programs
- New Mathways Project
- Aligning Developmental Learning Outcomes with Common Core State Standards
- English as a Second Language Summit
- Designing Academic Road Maps and Structure Pathways
Big Idea #2. Aligning Expectations Between K12 and Community Colleges

• **Group Focus:**
  - Working collaboratively with school superintendents and state leaders to align expectations between K-12 and community colleges through a proposed program titled *College Readiness NOW!*

• **Major Strategies:**
  - Take College Diagnostic Tests Into the High Schools.
  - Provide “Bridge” Programs in the Senior Year for Students Who Need Extra Support Services.
  - Provide Dual Enrollment Courses for High School Students Ready for College Work.
Big Idea #2. Aligning Expectations Between K12 and Community Colleges

Reforming State Policy

- **College Readiness NOW!**
- Implement ACCUPLACER testing in Junior year of high school.
- Opportunity for students to take remedial or college-level courses prior to enrolling in college.

Aligning Student Learning Outcomes

- **National Common Core State Standards (CCSS)**
- Statewide review of the student learning outcomes in our top-level community college developmental math and English courses in comparison to CCSS.
Big Idea #3. Creating Student Success Data

• **Group Focus:**
  - Creating a more comprehensive student success model that includes metrics on progression through developmental education and disaggregated completion measures by: a) students who enter community college prepared for college level work; b) students who require developmental education; and c) ESL students.

• **Major Strategy:**
  - Develop a more comprehensive student success model that considers entering student skill level impact on success within a defined period of time.
Big Idea #3. Creating Student Success Data

Identifying Completion Measures

• **Revised Student Success Model**
  • A model capable of reporting successful outcomes of students three and six years after initial enrollment based on their level of preparedness.
  • Completion measures include:
    • Degree or Certificate Completion;
    • Transfer to a Four Year College; or
    • Complete at least 30 credits with a 2.0 GPA or above.

Applying Progress Measures

• **Developed a Data Dictionary**
  • Developed a robust data dictionary with over 200 data fields in order to report on the progress of students after one semester, one year, two years and/or three years after initial enrollment.
“Big Ideas” & The Role of Academic Officers

**Themes**
- Collaboration
- Facilitate Action Plans
- Evidence Based Decisions

**Actions**
- Review Literature and Best Practices
- Data Collection
- Conduct Focus Groups
- Develop and Facilitate Professional Development Summits
- Empower Faculty Driven Change
- Implement Redesign
Big Idea #4. Promoting Adjunct Faculty Development

- **Group Focus:**
  - Developing programs to support regional and statewide collaboration for adjunct faculty development.

- **Major Strategies:**
  - Develop a statewide credential and adjunct faculty orientation program to provide professional development for the adjunct faculty.
  - Develop an web-based repository through which adjuncts who complete the credential program can indicate their availability for teaching assignments throughout the state.
Big Idea #4. Promoting Adjunct Faculty Development

**Themes**
- Statewide Credential Program
- Adjunct Faculty Repository
- Professional Development

**Action Plan**
- Learner-centered Classroom Pedagogy
- Techniques on Classroom Management that Promote Student Engagement
- Opportunities for Scholarship
- Delivering a Quality Education through Ongoing Professional Development

Electronic Repository will Support Collaboration Among Colleges in Hiring Adjunct Faculty
Big Idea #8. Using Core Student Learning Outcomes and Common Assessment Tools in the Top Ten Highest Enrolled General Education Courses

- **Group Focus:**
  - Improve course quality by developing core learning outcomes plus common teaching and assessment tools for the top 10 highest enrolled general education courses throughout the state.

- **Major Strategy:**
  - Establish statewide initiative to develop:
    - Core course content and learning outcomes for the top 10 highest enrollment general education courses.
    - A comprehensive inventory of instructional best practices.
    - Common teaching tools.
    - Common assessment tools.
    - Faculty training and development tools.
Big Idea #8. Using Core Student Learning Outcomes and Common Assessment Tools in the Top Ten Highest Enrolled General Education Courses

**Phase I**
- Introduction to Psychology
- Introduction to Sociology
- English Composition I
- English Composition II
- Public Speaking

**Phase II**
- Contemporary Mathematics
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Western Civilization
- Introduction to Computers
- Introduction to Statistics
Policy Meets Practice

- Developed a Statewide Student Success Center
- Presented Student Success “Charter” to Senate & Assembly Education Committees
- Established Statewide College Graduation Targets through the Year of 2020
- Partnering with NJ Department of Education & NJ Secretary of Higher Education on K-12 Alignment Measures
- Deploying Statewide Communications Strategies on the “Big Ideas”
- Hosting ACCT’s Governance Institute for Student Success (GISS) for NJ Trustees
“We should do together what we cannot do as well on our own.”
-Abraham Lincoln
Questions?
For the Following Information, please visit:
www.njccc.org/bigideas.htm

Big Ideas Research Papers
Big Ideas Statewide Recommendations
Big Ideas Implementation Updates
This PowerPoint Presentation

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