Team D: External Alignment Highlights

Having met consistently since the August 14 work session, Team D has finalized their Year 1 Action Items, developed a plan for how to achieve them and assigned specific tasks to their members.

Year 1 Action Items:
1. With a goal of improving college readiness and decreasing the % of students requiring development math or English,
   a) enhance/expand dual enrollment and Early College and align curricula to improve student success. [Strategy #2, Objective 2.2] Team member leading this action item is Heidi Rademacher, Perkins Grant manager.
   b) offer one-to-one tutoring to Holyoke students. [Strategy #2, Objective 2.2] Team members leading this action item are: Derek Estrella, financial aid counselor and Nelson Lopez, staff assistant in Student Services.
2. Conduct a study of career services practices, (including experiential learning and service learning), to develop a recommendation in support of academic programs and non-credit placement opportunities. Team D’s focus is to support Team B by developing tools/ processes to support connecting students to businesses and 4-year colleges. [Strategy #3, Objective 3.2] Team members leading this action item are: Michele Cabral, interim executive director of professional education and corporate learning and TWO; Heidi; Richard Powers, coordinator of career planning and placement; and Jeff Hayden, vice president of Business & Community Services.
3. With a focus on the healthcare industry, use analysis from Year Zero to expand non-credit and credit offerings, creating pathways through credit for prior learning. **(Strategy #4, Objective 4.2)** The team member leading this action item is: JoAnne Rome, director of Marketing & Communications.

Team D is moving forward on each action item with the following tasks and activities:

**Action Item 1:** Heidi and Nelson have been reviewing Early College best practices. Heidi plans to enhance dual enrollment with the Holyoke Public Schools and put measures in place to improve curricula alignment as needed. Derek and Nelson are examining financial aid options to support tutoring and will contact CAPS (Center for Academic Program Support) to see if students/adult learners can utilize math centers or other tutoring if they are not enrolled. They are also exploring whether alumni might tutor or mentor students and identifying strategic partners located in specific Holyoke Wards. For middle school students, Nelson and Derek are working to offer tutoring at Kelly (and potentially Morgan) schools through Homework House and HCC work study students.

**Action Item 2:** Michele is setting up meetings with HCC colleagues to gather suggestions and ideas for career services. Richard and Christine Janik, in Student Account Services, have been researching best practices at other colleges, compiling a list of those that should be investigated. Heidi and Elaine Herbert-Danik, coordinator of the Testing and Workforce Certification Center, have done the same for best practices in career services at high schools. Jeff is working on identifying external stakeholders for strategy discussions.

**Action Item 3:** JoAnne Rome is setting up internal meetings to review program suggestions and conducted a discussion on HCC as a center for cannabis education. Meanwhile, HCC is working with its social equity vending partner, C3RN (Cannabis Community Care and Research Network) to schedule a series of educational and networking events designed to spur investment, economic growth and job creation in the nascent cannabis industry in Western Massachusetts. The first in the series will be held Monday, October 21, 2019, 6 - 9:00 p.m. at the PeoplesBank Conference Center in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development. Admission is free, and the event is open to all.

Stay tuned for more highlights from our dedicated Strategic Plan Teams.

Kind regards,

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