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Pathways to Results News

January 2016

Tearing Down Obstacles to Student Success -- Apply Now to Kickstart a PTR Project!



OCCRL is excited to announce that the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) is now accepting applications for new **Pathways to Results: Partnership and Planning for Student Success** projects across Illinois! OCCRL and ICCB are looking for partners interested in assembling a meaningful plan for implementing an evidence-based career pathway improvement that addresses documented gaps in student success. Different than in years past, teams' PTR work will be concentrated through participation in an intensive two-day institute to prepare for the final deliverable—an intervention plan that is eligible to be considered for a Year Two PTR grant to support implementation and scaling of the project intervention in the 2016/2017 academic year.

Teams will be selected based on their commitment to engage in a PTR project in one of five focus areas:

- * Adult Career Pathways
- * Improvement of Federal Perkins Measures
- * Retention or Completion Improvement Across Multiple Programs
- * Transfer Pathways
- * Program Review
- * Secondary to Postsecondary Transitions

To view the application, [download it here](#). Applications are due February 12, 2016. For more information, please contact [Heather McCambly](#), Project Director for PTR.

Webinar: Transforming pathway performance: Leveraging key knowledge of pathways principles, populations, and practices



Date: February 18, 2016. 1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. Central. **To register, [click here](#).**

While the focus on career pathways to and through postsecondary education is increasing, the connections between local implementation, student-level data, and scholarly research on student success are not intuitive. It can be hard to navigate for the purposes of facilitating inquiry-oriented activities dedicated to improving student success-driven pathways. Process improvements to curricular and co-curricular programs, extending from marketing and recruitment to outcomes (e.g., learning, retention, completion), require student-level data that can be hard to acquire. Such transformations are complex and finding solutions can be overwhelming.

For practitioners, administrators, and other educational leader striving to improve career pathways, this short webinar will introduce a systematic way of using research and resources to support conversations about meaningful and equitable changes to student pathways. Participants will learn about a framework that connects critical principles for career pathway design, with evidence on individual student populations and best practice, and be introduced to an array of resources on these topics from OCCRL, including the newly released brief *Exploring the Role of First-Year Experiences in Enhancing Equity & Outcomes*.

Reflecting on High-Impact Changes to the Critical First Year

While institutions grapple with increased pressure to move more students to completion in an environment of uncertainty and decreasing resources, it is imperative that student support programs be delivered equitably, efficiently and effectively. As Pathways to Results begins to more actively support institutions to implement evidence-based solutions for student success, we have been reflecting on what really makes a difference for community college students in the critical first year of attendance. These types of programs are explored in the newly released brief, **Exploring the Role of First-Year Experiences in Enhancing Equity & Outcomes** by Marci Rockey and Randi Congleton. This brief describes the components and value of first-year programs, especially to those students that may be sometimes labeled as academically underprepared.

What types of programming have made a difference in your students' first-year experience? What other innovative practices are being embraced at your institution to move students from access to success?

[Click here to read the brief in full.](#)

Individualized Learning Plans: Implementation in Joliet Township High School District 204

Many school districts have adopted Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs) as one way to support students in their college and career decisions. This brief offers an in-depth look at the successes and challenges encountered by the Joliet (Illinois) Township High School district as they implemented ILPs.

[Click here to read the brief in full](#)

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