

### Alliance Collaborations

To finalize the expanded scope of the Alliance for College and Career Student Success (ACCSS), a revised intergovernmental agreement between the College and its partner school districts is expected to be submitted for review to the ECC Board of Trustees in summer 2021. A brief summary of progress made toward the 2020-2021 ACCSS priority areas is outlined below. Each of the priorities aligns with the four college and career readiness components outlined within the Illinois Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Act (PWR Public Act 99-0674).

### College-Career Pathways

To date, regional college-career pathway maps for Information Technology and Business-Financial Services have been published to guide district-level pathway development and/or refinement. The ACCSS Pathways Committee is currently developing college-career pathway maps for Health Sciences & Technology, Manufacturing & Engineering Technology, and Education. In addition, the ACCSS Coordinating Council is in the process of refining guidelines that detail collaborative steps to create college-career pathways spanning grades 9 through 14. The D509 Pathway Development Guidelines and regional maps will be published via the Alliance website at [www.elgin.edu/alliance](http://www.elgin.edu/alliance).

The College-Career Pathways Committee is presently determining areas of foci for 2021-2022.

### Student Transitions, Interventions, & Support

In collaboration with secondary and other community partners, the Alliance has expanded its annual workshops for D509 students and families to access information related to the following topics: career awareness, post-secondary exploration, postsecondary preparation and selection, financial aid, and financial literacy. As of May 2021, there have been 13 workshops conducted. Planning is underway with our secondary partners to expand workshop offerings in 2021-2022.

A pilot seven-week training session for D509 school counselors will be held in summer 2021. The training will expand counselor knowledge of post-secondary pathway options and resources. We are excited to partner with the training organization, Chicago Jobs Council, who has been training Chicago Public School counselors for several years. Participating counselors and ECC staff will complete their Chicago College and Career Advising Credential (CCCAC) by August 2021.

### Instructional Design & Support

The Alliance partnership implemented three high school Transitional Math courses in 2019-2020 and continues to support the instructors teaching these courses. High school students successfully completing the transitional math course are automatically placed into college-level math courses at ECC. In school year 2020-2021, these courses have nearly 1,300 students enrolled across the four school districts.

In January 2021, the State of Illinois adopted key implementation guidance for high school Transitional English courses. The *Transitional English Language Arts (ELA) Competencies and Policies* guidance will be used by the Alliance planning team later this calendar year as they resume planning for the development of these courses in our local schools.

In 2020-2021, 18 qualified high school instructors are teaching dual credit courses for high school students in a total of 6 academic departments. There are 7 ECC faculty who are working as Dual Credit Liaisons to provide instructional support to each high school instructor. Liaisons are also responsible for reviewing course materials and conducting site visits to ensure courses delivered at the high school

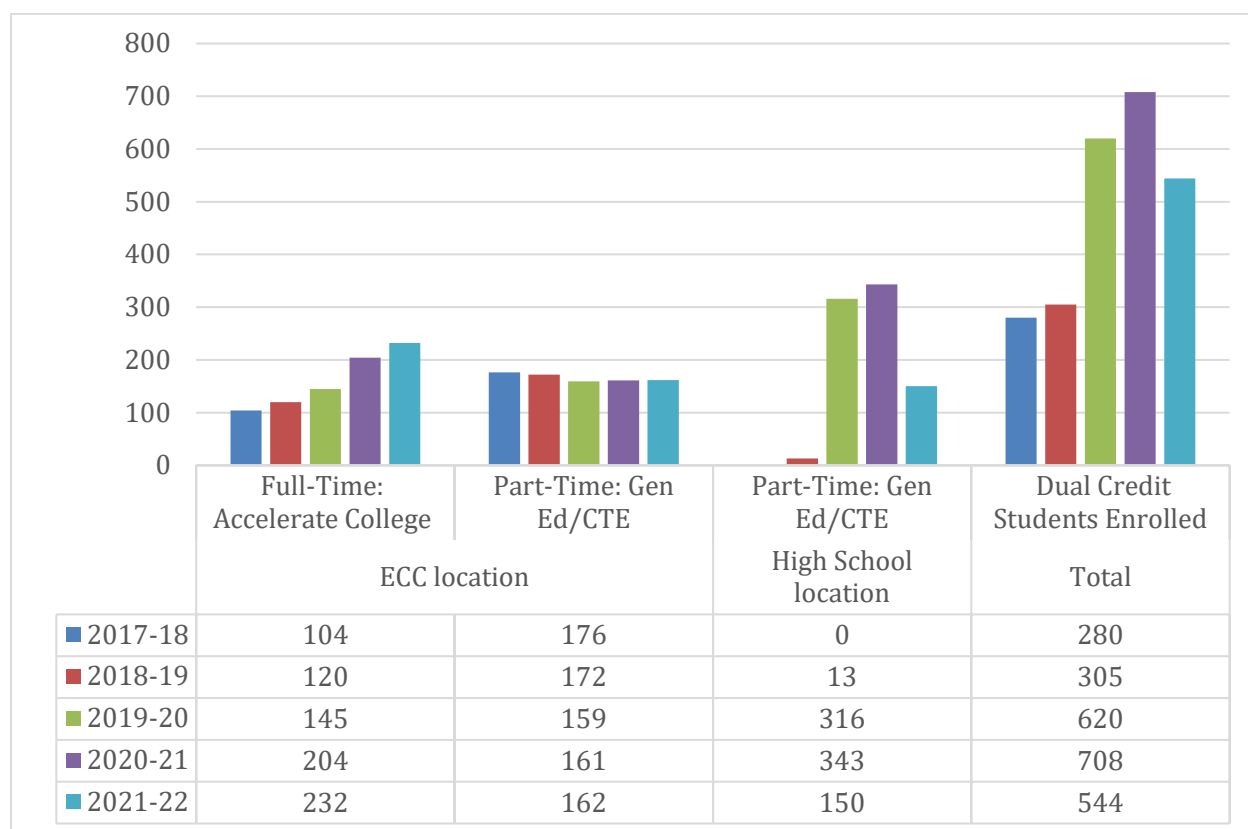
location, by qualified high school instructors, reflect the quality and rigor of classes taught on the college campus.

### Dual Credit Partnerships

Our staff continues to support students currently enrolled in both full- and part-time dual credit programs in spring 2021. In May, we will celebrate another cohort of students who will earn their Associate degree prior to their high school graduation. This year, we anticipate honoring approximately 15 graduates during the college’s virtual graduation ceremony on Friday, May 22, 2021.

In addition, we are enrolling a new cohort of dual credit students for the academic 2021-2022 school year. New full-time students are in the process of meeting with academic advisors and registering for classes. We anticipate the number of new part-time students enrolling in courses located at the high school sites will increase in the coming months as Districts finalize their registration processes. A chart summarizing the dual credit enrollment trends is below.

Figure 1: Dual Credit Student Enrollment Trends



\*Enrollments as of 4/27/2021

### College Transition Programs

As noted above, we have expanded the number of college-career readiness workshops and resources available to D509 families and students this school year. In addition, our team is working with District partners to reimagine the format for the Middle School Friday program in order to provide middle school students and their families with career exploration opportunities.

Federal TRiO grant programs identify and assist individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have potential to succeed in higher education with the goal of supporting their high school completion and enrollment in college. Elgin Community College proudly supports students through five TRiO grant programs – three that support secondary students in our region and two that support ECC college-aged students:

### **Talent Search**

This program is in its fifth, and final, year of the 2016 grant award. The following support services continue to be provided to the 500 program students:

- Online before-school tutoring for middle school students
- Online Transition Academy Saturday sessions for high school students
- Online individual support and group workshops for high school students
- Online parent evening sessions on topics related to college-career readiness and support
- Regular follow up with students to virtually engage them

The 2021 grant application has been submitted to continue support of 500 middle and high school students from low-income and/or first-generation households from identified School Districts U-46 and 300 schools.

### **Upward Bound**

The two grant programs support 134 high school-aged students from low-income and/or first-generation households from identified high schools within School Districts U-46 and 300. The following support services continue to be provided to the program students:

- Online after-school tutoring
- Online academic skills workshops
- Online academic and personal advising support
- Online financial aid and scholarship application workshops
- Virtual college tours
- Technical support

### **Student Support Services**

The federal TRiO Student Support Services and Student Support Services – English as a Second Language grants were renewed by the Department of Education in July for another five-year award. These combined grants support over 500 ECC students (SSS serves 362; SSS-ESL serves 144). The following support services continue to be provided to the program students:

- Online individual and small group academic and career preparation
- Virtual support for selecting postsecondary academic courses and major exploration
- Online access and guidance in navigating scholarships and financial aid programs
- Virtual college tours
- Virtual and in-person support for ESL students enrolled in mainstream college classes
- Grant aid assistance

*Report submitted by Dr. Mary Perkins, Dean, College Transitions & Secondary Partnerships, April 30, 2021*