

College & Career Readiness Report November 2018

College & Career Readiness:

The Alliance for College Readiness is working this academic year to address the following priority areas. A brief progress update is in italics below.

- a. **Developing career pathways aligned across high school, ECC, and four-year institutions with employer and community engagement.** *Focusing on four initial high-impact employment sectors, the college with its district partners and the Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System Education for Employment #110 are exploring opportunities to collaborate on current and future secondary career pathways. As part of curriculum alignment, we are also discussing opportunities for dual credit as well as potential for students to earn industry-recognized credentials while in secondary school.*
- b. **Implementing high school transitional courses aligned with college-ready expectations in math and language arts.** *Using the available statewide curriculum resources for Transitional Math, high school and college faculty and administrators are developing a memorandum of understanding. This MOU will allow high school students who successfully complete transitional courses to enter into college-level courses without needing to complete placement tests. Faculty teams are working to develop course materials. Reading & Communication faculty (high school and college) and administrators are drafting curriculum resources. An administrative team is working on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding.*
- c. **Exploring and enhancing the use of high quality instructional practices at the high school and college levels.** *High school and college faculty have expressed interest in identifying opportunities to leverage existing professional development opportunities as well as plan cross-sector collaboration opportunities. Potential topics include standards-based grading, competency-based education, and instructional design practices, with a goal of fostering a better understanding of assessment and instructional practices with the secondary and postsecondary environments.*
- d. **Expanding dual credit opportunities.** *Expanded dual credit opportunities for high school students that will begin in fall 2019 include: (1) two-year course options at the ECC campus for students to explore 22 career-technical programs; (2) one- and two-year Accelerate College program options offered at the Center for Emergency Services; (3) additional class meeting time options for students enrolling in general education courses on a part-time basis; and (4) access to general education and career-technical education courses, taught by qualified high school faculty, at the high school building*

- e. **Aligning ECC placement requirements with statewide placement framework.** A taskforce has been convened that includes ECC faculty and staff as well as representatives from our school districts. The taskforce is working to implement the ICCB's [Illinois common placement framework](#) for the incoming fall 2019 new student class.

In addition to the Alliance for College Readiness work, the College has hosted and/or participated in the following college readiness/transitions events supporting our local community since our August 2018 Board of Trustees report:

- U-46 Career Exploration event for district eighth graders
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities College Fair
- College Night
- Financial Aid 101
- College & Career 101 for Parents of High School Students
- Middle School Fridays

Early College Credit Partnerships:

Dual Credit

In academic year 2018-2019, high school students may select from three dual credit program options. The first is a full-time program allowing students to complete general education core courses (GECC) on the ECC campus that meet their high school graduation requirements. The second is a part-time program where students also complete general education courses on the ECC campus but in a more limited manner. The third program option is for high school students to enroll on a part-time basis in career-technical education (CTE) courses on the ECC campus. Each school district funds some portion of the tuition costs on behalf of their students.

The following table summarizes program enrollment this year compared to 2017-18:

2017-2018		2018-2019 Midterm	
# of Students	Program	# of Students	Program
97	CTE/Tech Prep	105	Part-time CTE
79	Middle College	83	Part-time GECC
104	Accelerate College	120	Full-time GECC
280	TOTAL Dual Credit Students	308	TOTAL Dual Credit Students

College Transition Programs

Talent Search

The federal Talent Search TRiO grant program identifies and assists 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. This year the program funding expanded from the Department of Education to increase the students served (500 in 2017-18 to 521 in 2018-19).

High school students participate in the Transition Academy program. The Transition Academy began on Saturday, September 15, 2018. Over 100 students are participating in the program this year. The high schools targeted for support include Elgin, Larkin, Streamwood, and Dundee Crown. This year we have over 50 mentors supporting Transition Academy students. On-site tutoring programs are available at Carpentersville, Abbott, Ellis, Kimball, Larsen, Canton, and Tefft middle schools.

Upward Bound

Services provided through both Upward Bound Programs (Upward Bound-Upward Bound-II and I) have expanded to collectively serve a total of 130 students in School Districts U46 and 300 due to increased funding from the Department of Education. Both Upward Bound Programs provide timely personal assistance and educational guidance for qualified high school students who want to enhance their options for college.

Upward Bound Service Delivery

- After school tutoring support, and weekly contacts
- ACT and SAT preparation
- Assistance with college preparation and application completion
- Support through cultural and social experiences

Upward Bound Program Accomplishments

Students participating in Upward Bound programs are more than TWICE as likely to remain in college and FOUR times as likely to earn an undergraduate degree when compared to non-Upward Bound students from similar backgrounds.

- 85% of Upward Bound graduates attend Elgin Community College after high school.
- 98% of Upward Bound students persist to the next grade level.
- 95% of Upward Bound students are retained in the program each year.
- 100% of Upward Bound students graduate from high school
- 79% of Upward Bound students have a GPA of 2.5 or better at the end of the school year.
- 100% of Upward Bound graduates enroll in post-secondary education after graduation.

*Report submitted by Dr. Mary Perkins, interim Dean, College Transitions & Developmental Education
October 31, 2018*