

Alliance Collaborations

A brief summary of progress made toward the 2021-2022 Alliance for College and Career Student Success (ACCSS) priority areas is outlined below. Each of the priorities aligns with the four college and career readiness components outlined within the 2016 Illinois Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Act (PWR Public Act 99-0674) as well as the Illinois State Plan for Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (also known as the Perkins V Plan).

College-Career Pathways

The December 2021 ACCSS College-Career Pathway Committee meeting featured Megan Kelly, Director of Academic Programs and Pathways from High School District 214. Ms. Kelly shared insights regarding their progress with implementing college-career pathways and provided procedural documents for individual districts' needs. In February 2022, Community Unit School District 300 will be profiled during the quarterly committee meeting as they share progress toward implementing college-career pathways that align with the regional maps developed by the Alliance. In addition, Dr. Klein, Director of P-20 Initiatives, will share an overview on pathway implementation processes and best practices that he has collected in his work with school districts across the state.

In addition to quarterly meetings, the Dean and Assistant Dean of College in High School Programs continue to provide district-level support for the implementation of college-career pathways. Each district is presently in varying stages of their work to align pathways with the regional maps (see www.elgin.edu/alliance).

Student Transitions, Interventions, & Support

In partnership with secondary partners, ECC's College Transitions department has expanded the number of college-career readiness events available to the D509 community. In the 2020-2021 school year, we hosted 12 workshops with approximately 225 attendees. This year there are 16 workshops, which we expect to reach approximately 300 community members. The topics addressed in these events have also been expanded to include career exploration, postsecondary education exploration, preparation, and selection, and financial aid and literacy. In fall 2021, the sessions were delivered virtually. In spring 2022, we are offering sessions in a hybrid format allowing for in-person and virtual participation. For more information about these sessions, see the links below:

- Upcoming events available at <https://www.elgin.edu/about-ecc/college-career-readiness/college-readiness-events/>
- Robust resource library available at <https://www.elgin.edu/about-ecc/college-career-readiness/post-secondary-resources/>

A pilot seven-week training session was held in summer 2021 for D509 school counselors and staff as well as ECC personnel whose primary job responsibilities include supporting high school students. The training allowed attendees to earn the "college and career advising credential", which expands staff knowledge of post-secondary pathway options and resources. Moreover, the training foci includes youth-centered coaching strategies, such as goal setting, overcoming goal setbacks, cultural responsiveness, and trauma-informed care. We partnered with the Chicago Jobs Council organization, who has experience training Chicago Public School counselors for several years. 12 staff completed the training, including several ECC

staff. A second cohort will begin in February 2022 to extend access to D509 staff as well as ECC personnel and community partners working with youth. There are 20 staff participating in this second training.

Additional areas of collaboration with districts 300 and U-46 include supporting eligible middle and high school-aged students. The Upward Bound and Talent Search grants heavily emphasize the preparation of students for college. One area of focused work this year has been the preparation of the 2022 TRIO Upward Bound grant application. The College is seeking to expand the number of high school students served by this grant from 134 currently to 194 if all three grant applications are approved later this year. The second area of collaboration this year has been working with the target schools to incorporate support services for Upward Bound and Talent Search participants at the school site.

Instructional Design & Support

The Alliance partnership implemented three high school Transitional Math courses in 2019-2020. In the 2021-2022 school year, each of the four school districts has delivered at least one of the three Transitional Math courses: College Algebra, Quantitative Literacy, and Technical Math. The courses were co-developed by the College and its partners to enhance student's math skills during their fourth year of high school in preparation for college-level math courses. Students who complete the high school course with C or better can directly enroll in ECC college-level math courses. The team is focused this year on supporting high schools to increase student success in these courses and improving advising at high school and colleges to ensure Transitional Math students benefit as much as possible from their Transitional Math experiences.

The ACCSS Instructional Design and Support Committee also coordinates the training and support for qualified high school instructors teaching dual credit course at their high school site. In 2021-2022, (21) qualified high school instructors are teaching dual credit courses for high school students in a total of (14) college courses. 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 reflect the quality and rigor for classes taught on the college campus. The team is focused this year on providing additional clarity and logistical support for both liaisons and dual credit high school instructors.

Dual Credit Partnerships

Our staff continues to support students currently enrolled in both full- and part-time dual credit programs in spring 2022. In May, we expect to celebrate 86 full-time Accelerate College students who will earn their Associate degree prior to their high school graduation (*an increase from only 15 completing degrees in spring 2021*). These students will be honored during ECC's graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 21, 2022.

In addition, we are working diligently with our high school partners to recruit and enroll a new cohort of dual credit students for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. The April quarterly report will include an enrollment update for the fall 2022 semester. Students have been meeting with high school counselors to review the options available for the upcoming school year:

- (1) Full-time Accelerate College program at the ECC campus. Students enroll in a minimum of twelve credit hours in the fall and spring terms taking general education core courses (GECC).

- (2) Part-time courses at the ECC campus. Students enroll in up to seven credit hours in the fall and spring terms. Courses can be career-technical education (CTE) or general education courses.
- (3) Part-time courses at the high school campus taught by qualified high school instructors via the in-high school dual credit program model will be delivered in each of the four school districts: 300, 301, 303, and U46.

The 2021-2022 school year marks the fourth year of providing dual credit courses to students at the high school sites. Elgin Community College refers to this as our "in-high school dual credit program". ECC's division of College Transitions and Secondary Partnerships utilized the legislative requirements of the Illinois Dual Credit Quality Act and the National Concurrent Enrollment Partnership (NACEP) Standards (<https://www.nacep.org/accreditation/standards/>) to guide the development of the in-high school program's design in order to ensure the same college course delivered in the high school as is offered on campus and that the College provides sufficient academic and program oversight to ensure the course integrity. To provide further assurance of our commitment to the quality and rigor of course delivery, ECC will be submitting a full application for NACEP accreditation by June 1, 2022.

College Transition Programs

In support of our secondary partners, the College Transitions department has enhanced its series of college and career readiness events and resources available to D509 families and students. Details about these events are noted in the ACCSS section of this report above.

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

The TRIO Talent Search program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. These programs are designed to identify qualified youth with potential for education at the postsecondary level and encourage them to complete secondary school and undertake postsecondary education. Elgin Community College's program provides support services for 500 students from low-income and/or first-generation households who attend the following schools:

- a. D300 Dundee-Crown High School and eighth graders attending Carpentersville Middle School
- b. U-46 Elgin High School and eighth graders attending Ellis and Larsen Middle Schools
- c. U-46 Larkin High School and eighth graders attending Abbott and Kimball Middle Schools
- d. U-46 Streamwood High School and eighth graders attending Canton and Tefft Middle Schools

The services provided by the Talent Search team are summarized below:

- Individualized support for
 - Goal setting and tracking
 - Career interest assessments and exploration
 - College planning, preparation, and support
 - Reviewing and completing financial aid opportunities

- Academic progress checks and providing access to academic support
- Small and large-group workshops on various college-career readiness topics including financial literacy and post-secondary pathways
- College tours

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 2021-2022 school year is the fifth and final year of the current five-year award. The applications to renew these awards, and seek a third award, were submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in January 2022.

The following support services continue to be provided to the program students:

- Monitoring student performance to ensure participants connected with necessary academic and personal advising support
- Tutoring support provided after school at Dundee-Crown, Elgin, Larkin, and Streamwood High Schools as well as supplemental on-demand virtual tutoring support
- Saturday Academy workshops focused on academic skills, financial aid and scholarships, and other relevant workshops to support student's transition/readiness for college
- Summer academic program designed to strengthen core academic skills
- Summer trip to visit multiple colleges and universities

Student Support Services

The federal TRIO Student Support Services and Student Support Services – English as a Second Language grants are currently in their second year of their 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:

- General support and assistance addressing barriers to their success in ECC courses
- Individual and small group academic and career preparation
- Support for selecting postsecondary academic courses and major exploration
- Access and guidance in navigating scholarships and financial aid programs
- College tours
- Grant aid assistance

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