TOPIC: CORE TO COLLEGE P20 PARTNERSHIPS: AN INITIATIVE TO

CONVENE HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND HIGHER

EDUCATION FACULTY ACROSS COLORADO

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I. SUMMARY

The Colorado Department of Higher Education received a two-year grant from the Rockefeller Philanthropic Advisors to develop a network of four regional P20 partnerships in Colorado comprised of mathematics and English language arts/communications high school teachers and higher education faculty.

The goals for these partnerships are for high school teachers to learn from college faculty what freshman entering college-level classes should know and be able to do and, reciprocally, for college faculty to learn from high school teachers what they should expect of high school graduates, based on mastery of the new Colorado Academic Standards (which includes the Common Core State Standards). Another desired outcome is for faculty to revise and clarify the content and competencies for gtPathways entry-level communications and mathematics courses.

II. BACKGROUND

The three overarching goals driving this work are (1) to ensure more students exit high school ready for college or a career without the need for remediation; (2) to ensure postsecondary success and completion by aligning entrance and exit expectations for general education coursework (gtPathways); and (3) to promote strong collaboration between higher education and K12 sectors in the design and implementation of the state's college and career readiness initiatives. Because one of the strongest indicators of degree completion is successful completion of lower-division communications and mathematics coursework within a student's first thirty credits, department staff and the General Education (GE) Council agree that gtPathways communications (GT-CO1, 2 & 3) and mathematics (GT-MA1) courses should be the priority.

This work builds on previous faculty-driven work in biannual Faculty-to-Faculty Conferences to create content criteria and competencies for the state general education curriculum, known as Guaranteed Transfer (gt)Pathways. In recent years, statewide Faculty-to-Faculty Conferences have focused on the creation of Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements. The Core to College P20 Partnerships are an extension of the Faculty-to-Faculty Conferences and will allow faculty to once again meet and reconsider the gtPathways content and competencies, which have not been revised in almost ten years.

The GE Council is charged with "...annually review[ing] the list of general education courses and the course numbering system, including the criteria, adopted by the commission and recommend such changes as may be necessary to maintain the accuracy and integrity of the course numbering system..." [23-1-108.5(3)(c)(II), C.R.S.]. The recommendations from faculty

participants in these regional partnerships will inform GE Council's recommendations to the Commission for enhancing the integrity and alignment of the gtPathways curriculum, thus, helping to ensure student success and degree completion.

III. PROCESS

All P20 Partnership participants are invited to attend a State Summit on June 10, which will be the kick-off event for the P20 Partnership initiative (see Addendum A: Agenda). Following that, regional teams will meet monthly through October 2014 (see Addendum B: Fact Sheet). The process will be facilitated by staff, colleagues from Colorado Department of Education, and by Institute for Evidence Based Change (IEBC), which has facilitated this process in other states.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Information item only, no action required at this time. Staff will provide the Commission with regular updates on the Core to College P20 Partnership effort.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

23-1-108.5(3)(c)(II), C.R.S.