

Freshman Success Initiative

Task Force 1 – Early Identification/Early Assessment

Meeting Memory for February 20, 2015

Main Project Focus – Freshman Success Initiative

Develop a model to assist high school students to transition from high school to College of San Mateo that supports an improved level of college readiness and student success retention.

Task Force 1 Focus

What service, activities or other collaborations can College of San Mateo provide with the purpose of assisting students to prepare to be successful in the community college system while the students are still in high school. How can College of San Mateo provide support to the high schools to assist students while they are still at the high school site (freshman through senior years)?

Attendees: Marsha Ramezane (CSM co-chair), Beverley Madden (CSM), Katie Bliss (CSM), Alex Guiriba (CSM), Tami Hom (CSM), Tanya Paige (San Mateo), Kathy Ross (CSM), Kevin Thomas (Capuchino), Fi Tovo (CSM), Lana Bakour (ASCSM)

Not present: Sayuri Buritica (HMB), Tiffany Burkle (Sequoia), Cynthia Clark (SMUHSD), Joe Mahood (SMUHSD), Zorina Matavulj (Woodside), April Torres (San Mateo)

Part 1 – Review of DATA from College of San Mateo

Data that included the following was reviewed.

- Placement test results by high school
- Curriculum Guide
- Enrollment of San Mateo public high schools in SMCCCD Colleges
- SMCCCD majors of students graduating from SM County high schools
- Degree awarded to SM County high school graduates
- Examples of course success rates

When reviewing the data, two components of college readiness were identified as “issues” that needed attention. Two-thirds of the students graduating from a SM County high school did not place into university level coursework in math and English. So, the majority need developmental coursework in math and/or English in the community college. Over 37% of the students did not declare a specific major area of college study (a major). Having the skills (academic skills, maturity, study and time management skills) to tackle college level study is a concern. Graduating high school and attending college without a clear sense of direction (major) is a concern.

Part 2 – We reviewed what is currently happening to support high school students

- Capuchino Report – Kevin Thomas, Counselor

Counselors at Capuchino are VERY busy with seniors. By the senior year the counselors have a pretty good idea of what each student is planning at graduation. Through the four years each class is provided with workshops and opportunities to learn about educational and career options. In the fall of the senior year the counselors work primarily with senior students who intend to apply to the four year institutions. They provide a number of activities and workshops for students and parents to assist with

college awareness, preparation to apply, and the application process. In the spring semester of the senior year counselors work to follow up on those students applying to four year institutions and also make sure students are applying to the community college of their choice. Capuchino works closely with EOPS programs and the CSM PEP program to assist students to prepare to transition to a SMCCCD college.

Issues: Capuchino is very open to collaborating with CSM.

- San Mateo High School Report – Tanya Paige

At San Mateo counselors work closely with students to help them understand the importance and value of continued education after high school. The intention is to help every student formulate post high school plans that include college. SM has a number of resources they use to communicate with students and market activities. By the senior year all students are applying for college, whether it be a four institution or a community college.

- College of San Mateo – Alex Guiriba, College Recruiter

Alex indicated that as the College Recruiter/Outreach Program Director he spends his time working with high schools to assist students to understand educational options after high school. He works with staff, students and parents in this regard. He coordinates activities, workshops, tours in an effort to help students connect to College of San Mateo.

- College of San Mateo – Fi Tovo, Admissions Assistant/Concurrent Enrollment

Fi works very closely with students and parents that apply to the College Connections High School Concurrent Enrollment Program. Fi experiences students and parents who don't understand the application and admissions process and do not understand the program limitations (i.e, students can't enroll in basic skills courses, high school counselors must approve all courses for enrollment, placement testing requirements, program time lines, etc.) Fi understands the need to provide additional support for our incoming high school students. In this regard she participates in outreach activities and works with specific programs to target underrepresented populations.

- College of San Mateo – Tami Hom, EOPS Outreach and Program Services Coordinator

On behalf of CSM and the EOPS program Tami visits all of our local high schools in an effort to help students learn about EOPS and learn about College of San Mateo as an option after high school. In addition to outreach, Tami provides workshops at the high school site, and coordinates an EOPS Summer Bridge program for new EOPS students. EOPS has a history of great outreach and services that help students in the program develop a level of college readiness needed to succeed and graduate.

- College of San Mateo – Katie Bliss, Project Change Director

Katie is developing and coordinating a program to assist incarcerated youth to choose higher education. The program works to connect students with educational services and resources to support college enrollment and successful attainment of educational and career goals. In this role she collaborates with a number of San Mateo County organizations in order to serve students and the community.

- College of San Mateo – Kathy Ross, Dean, Business and Technology

Kathy is eager to work with the high schools to articulate courses or programs so that the students can begin to earn college credit while attending high school. This can motivate students to continue one

with high education and career exploration. Through a current program (Tech Prep – now called CTE Transitions) students can begin to earn college credits through high school courses that have been articulated with the college. Kathy is interested in hearing what she can do to help our local high schools in this regard.

- College of San Mateo – Marsha Ramezane, Dean, Counseling, Advising and Matriculation

Marsha reminds everyone that PEP (Priority Enrollment Program) is part of the counseling department and a number of staff continually tweak the program to make sure it is student friendly, informative, and fun for new incoming high school graduates. The goal of PEP is to help high school seniors make a smooth transition to CSM and register for summer and/or fall courses before they graduate. So, their college is in place and ready for them as they graduate from high school. Typically we get about 800 students who complete the program. PEP runs March through mid-May each year.

In the discussion, Marsha premised that the early PEP program participants may be more motivated and ready for college. She was reminded by the high schools that is not always the case. Since some high school students have not yet found their ability to act in a manner to anticipate their needs, the high school staff frequently find themselves “telling” students what to do –example “go over to that computer and fill out this form”an action that may not necessarily be triggered by a mature interest in attending college. ☺

Part 3 – Discussion

After hearing what each person at the table does, and reviewing concerns, we came up with several ideas that may be part of our bullet-point summary.

1. At Capuchino, Kevin told us how heavily impacted the counselors are as they try to assist seniors with completing college applications. To help them balance the work, the community college students get assistance in the spring term while those applying to four year schools get assistance in the fall term.

Can College of San Mateo develop a team of student services providers to help to high school seniors apply to CSM in the FALL term prior to graduation. This would take some pressure off of the high school counselors and help students who may be applying to CSM get needed attention. We could consider managing these high school students by caseload so they 1- get assistance with the application in the fall, and 2- get continued assistance with the enrollment process through the spring term, and 3- get continued monitoring during their first year at CSM.

2. Tanya at San Mateo High would like to see students get information in a timely manner so they can make appropriate decisions related to college majors and careers.

In this regard, could CSM provide short courses (perhaps .5 unit or 1.0 unit classes 8 – 16 hours of class) that introduce students to college majors and careers. Maybe “What Can I Do with a Major in Psychology?” type classes or “Dental Assisting at CSM” to get a good overview of the program and career opportunities. This could introduce students to college classes. They could begin to earn college units and get connected to CSM. These classes might be on weekends or after school – something to discuss further!