Michigan Pre-College and Youth Outreach Conference
2/8/2013
Steering Committee
Minutes

Present: Mary Beth Damm, Bernadette Lis, Laura Roop, Marie Ting, Amanda Kruger, Nick Collins

I. Introductions/Conference Background

Dr. Collins welcomed attendees to the meeting and provided a brief history of the conference. He shared that the previous four conferences have taken place at MSU, U-M and Wayne State University. One of the primary objectives of the conference is to support those who work with youth, share information about college preparation and college access. Conferences have been held in partnership and through the support of MCAN. We have worked with MCAN to make sure that the LCANs are able to attend the conference. We have also reached out to guidance counselors and other school representatives in the state, colleges and universities, particularly those who may have a TRIO program, Upward Bound and etc.

There was discussion about the marketing of the conference and perhaps coordinating on all our contacts to make sure that word is getting out more broadly. Perhaps in future steering committee meetings, we can review who the current recipients of this information are and if we can broaden that so that we can be preparing another college or university to be host in the near future.

The list of individuals who indicated interest in participating in the steering committee was reviewed.

II. Review of 2012 Conference

Amanda Kruger provided a review of last year’s conference. See summary below:

Over 30 MSU staff, including pre-college directors, Conference Managers, Associate Provosts and UOE specialists, collaborated with colleagues from 15 other institutions. The one-day event kicked off with remarks by John Austin (President of the Michigan Board of Education) and included 36 sessions presented by attendees. Nearly 400 practitioners from around the state attended this year’s Conference.

Post-conference surveys indicate that the attendees found it to be time well-spent. 80% indicated that they had learned things to inform their practice and would attend the Conference in the future, while 90% would recommend the Conference to others. Wielding lessons learned from this year, the Pre-College Leadership team will advise the Steering Committee for next year’s Conference.

Please find program information, sponsors, and forwards on the 2012 Conference held at Michigan State University at the following MSU outreach site:
http://outreach.msu.edu/events/precollege/default.asp

We received 130 responses from approximately 400 attendees. The following link will give you a summary of responses from the post-conference evaluation form, sent to conference attendees:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/gform?key=0Ah5XnEFW6RPVdE12UWIRMIhua19zcVktaExsZkN6UWc&gridId=0#chart
Detailed responses for qualitative questions from the post-conference evaluation are attached.

Amanda also provided suggestions for future conferences including:
  • A mid-conference planning review session
  • Generate more ownership across our institutions for maintaining interest in the event
  • It is important to get representatives from other areas to make this conference successful. It’s hard to get, for example, K-12 people involved as stakeholders because of their difficult schedules.

III. Theme/Format of 2013 Conference

The date of the 2013 conference is Monday, November 18.

There is a possibility of doing a Sunday pre-conference, but it will depend on topic and interest.

This year we want to make a more purposeful effort to make sure that this conference and the MCAN conference are distinct enough so that they are complementary and not repetitive. Dr. Collins has spoken to Brandy Johnson and she is in agreement in regard to working together to this end. One possible idea is that the MCAN conference is more practice based while the Michigan Pre-College & Youth Outreach Conference is more research/theory based.

It is important to use these events to move the discussion on these issues forward. As we look at the landscape, there seems to be a network of people involved in this work, yet we still have young people in Michigan who are struggling. How can we use the events to move toward what we need to achieve in terms of college access?

Ideas discussed include:
  • Involving a group called Detroit Schools Higher Education Consortium. One way to give the conference some focus is to devote a strand to that group to talk about Detroit related issues or urban schools.
  • Parental involvement – how to work with parents to promote college access
  • Issues of school design and incorporating college prep as part of school design
  • Teachers have so much going on that they aren’t able to think about how to build a college going culture.
  • Distributed counseling
  • Afterschool programs
  • Highlight university/school/community partnerships that promote reform and college access (MCAC, Woodrow Wilson Fellows program, religious organizations)
  • Highlight community organizations that are partnering with colleges to promote college going
  • Structure a session for people who are interested in talking about creating a state-wide organization. This would be a working session to, for example, hammer out goals, purposes by-laws, select officers and etc.

Possible themes that were discussed include:
  • Creating Synergies
  • Powerful Partnering for College Going Culture
IV. Next Steps

There was discussion about how often to meet/when. The group will start by meeting every two weeks. Marie will get a doodle poll out. We realize that not everyone will be able to attend all meetings, but minutes will be sent out.