



College and Career Transitions Initiative

LESSONS LEARNED

Site Partnership: **Miami Dade College**

Updated: April 30, 2007

As the CCTI project moves forward, it is important to document lessons learned so that those following will be better equipped to develop successful Career Pathways. This "Lessons Learned" section should focus on the knowledge you have gained by this experience and what new strategies could be taken into the future. These lessons should reflect on:

- what was done right
- what could have been done differently
- how the processes and interactions could be improved

... to be more effective in the future.

	LESSONS LEARNED	KNOWLEDGE GAINED NEW STRATEGIES FOR FUTURE
1	Working with high school students who verbalize and demonstrate motivation for the Project does not guarantee follow-up with necessary steps to be included in the Project.	<p>CCTI staff needs to be readily available to answer questions and guide students through the process of GPA attainment, test-taking and dual enrollment.</p> <p>CCTI Project Coordinator needs to spend time at the high school and be highly involved with school staff and with prospective CCTI students.</p>
2	Communication is the key to the success of the Project.	<p>The success of the entire Project depends on the success of each partner (i.e. high school, college and business partner) with its specific aspect of the Project.</p> <p>The establishment of and involvement in a Project Planning Committee with multiple representatives from each partner (i.e. high school, college and business partner) is imperative.</p> <p>Student representation and involvement at some of the Project meetings has proven to be important.</p> <p>Involvement by multiple persons at each partner site helps decrease the difficulties associated with staff turnover.</p>
3	Opportunities for dual enrollment create motivation and excitement throughout the high school campus.	<p>Information regarding dual enrollment process and opportunities needs to be shared with high school administration, counselors, teachers and students in order to maximize use of this untapped student advancement alternative.</p> <p>Students who do not currently meet criteria for dual enrollment eligibility express motivation and work toward improved study skills and grades.</p> <p>CCTI potential students who meet the criteria for dual enrollment (3.0 GPA or higher) prefer to take AP over dual enrollment courses. AP courses are also preferred among school counselors, students, and parents due to the fact that they give students the opportunity to obtain a higher GPA which is critical for students when applying to any college or University.</p>

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4	Curriculum and educational design at the high school level is a key component to the design and implementation of Project strategies.	<p>The Academies approach to education at the secondary level helps to pipeline students' interest in various fields of study and provide them with the necessary curriculum and learning opportunities to make informed choices as to career paths.</p> <p>A Career Specialist as part of the high school advisement staff is important and helpful.</p> <p>Students who take the PASS/CPT test at 10th grade usually do not pass the math portion of the test. This may be due, in part, to some students not being at Algebra II level during the 10th grade year or their inability to acquire the skills necessary to succeed in college level math, despite being enrolled in an Algebra II course.</p>
5	Work-based learning options (e.g. internships, apprenticeships, coop programs) at the high school level are necessary and effective in many ways.	<p>Early exploration of career options and experience in students' fields of interest need to be an integral component of the high school process.</p> <p>Internships at the secondary level provide learning opportunities for industry related skills but also for students' preparation and development in professional settings that help them to make an early career decision.</p> <p>Internships created specifically for CCTI students demonstrate to be effective and rewarding for students and business partners alike.</p> <p>CCTI Coordinator's supervision of students during internship is critical to ensure students follow hospital internship guidelines, complete their journals about their daily experiences, and follow-up on PASS/CPT test taking progress during the Summer, so they are ready to register for dual enrollment classes during the fall term.</p>

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