

Springfield City School District College and Career Readiness Expansion Straight A Grant Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities

Summary

The grant, if awarded, will provide funding which will allow us to expand our successful college and career readiness advising activities. We will add sustainable capacity so that we can assess, advise, and offer internships to more students. We will use research-based student assessment data, experience with our internship program, and collaborative discussions with our partners to support our middle school and high school staff as they plan and implement instructional changes to increase students' college and career readiness. Over time, we will measure an expected increase in the college-going rate of our students, an expected decrease in the number of students who need remediation in college, and an expected increase in the number of students who have had internships and/or earned workforce-readiness certificates or credentials.

Partners

Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC), Eugene, Oregon, is a nationally known organization focused on secondary and post-secondary education and career readiness. Founder Dr. David T. Conley and EPIC have studied and researched college and career readiness for nearly two decades. Major work that contributes to EPIC's definition of college and career readiness includes:

- a proficiency-based college admissions system developed for the Oregon University System,
- a national study on college readiness standards sponsored by the Association of American Universities,
- multiple analyses of entry-level college courses sponsored by the College Board and others, college and career readiness standards developed under the sponsorship of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and subsequent studies of their validity relative to college and careers,
- a study of career preparation programs sponsored by the National Assessment Governing Board, and
- two major studies sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on the alignment of the Common Core State Standards to college and career readiness.

EPIC works on a continuing basis with secondary and post-secondary faculty to improve student readiness for college and post-secondary success. What is learned from practice is incorporated into tools, techniques, and strategies to help all students become ready for college and careers. EPIC conducts district and state-specific research and facilitates professional development nationally.

The Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) is a collaborative infrastructure for higher education, helping colleges and universities transform their communities and economies through the education, employment, and engagement of more than 120,000 students in southwest Ohio. Our four college partners are among SOCHE's 21 member institutions. SOCHE provides internship placement as one of its services to its members, linking college interns with regional businesses and governmental agencies. The online internship placement system which SOCHE has developed has received over 1000 applicants and placed several hundred of those applicants in internships during the past year.

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce is our community's central organization working to improve the economic health of our community. Among the various initiatives it houses, Greater Springfield Moving Forward is a community-driven initiative comprised of 32 member stakeholders working to establish community priorities and goals to be realized over the next five years and beyond. The education and workforce development subgroups are actively involved in the work supporting our grant application, and the Chamber's ability to reach local and regional employers will also be valuable in implementing this grant.

Department of Jobs and Family Services/Work Plus (DJFS)/(Ohio Means Jobs)

In partnership with local government and private organizations, the Work Plus one-stop center serves as Clark County's central hub for employment and resources by offering a full spectrum of job and workforce development services. WorkPlus helps job seekers prepare for rewarding employment opportunities and helps employers find the qualified employees they need to succeed in a changing economy. WorkPlus is directly linked to the development and implementation of Ohio Means Jobs and will bring local workforce-related experience and knowledge of best practices and emerging opportunities to this project.

Clark State Community College (CSCC)

Is a two-year community college serving more than 5,000 students. CSCC is the single largest destination for our district's graduating students and offers more than 80 different degree and certificate programs in some of today's most in-demand career fields. Some of these programs prepare students to enter the work force immediately after graduation, and others are designed to help students complete the first two years of a bachelor's degree and transfer to a four-year university.

Central State University (CSU) in Wilberforce, Ohio, is one of the nation's oldest historically black universities, with a 125-year legacy of academic and athletic achievements. CSU is Ohio's only predominately African American public

institution of higher education, but it is, and has always been, “open to all persons of good moral character.” The University actively promotes diversity in its student body, faculty and staff, even as the institution adheres to its core historical responsibility to educate young African American men and women.

Wittenberg University, located in Springfield, is a Lutheran-affiliated liberal arts college that enjoys a national reputation for excellent academic standards. In addition to offering course work in the humanities, arts and sciences, Wittenberg also offers distinct academic programming in non-traditional areas not found in most liberal arts colleges, including business, computational science and teacher education certification. Many local students choose Wittenberg, either directly after graduation or after completing some community college credits.

Wright State University (WSU) is a public research university in Fairborn, Ohio, just outside of Dayton. The school offers degrees at the associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels. The university enrolls more than 15,000 students, and is one of the more popular destinations for Springfield High graduates and transfers from Clark State Community College.

Cathy Balas is an independent contractor consulting for institutions of higher education, including Wright State University and Clark State Community College, and teaches as an adjunct faculty member at Wittenberg University. She has held leadership positions in human resource management and in workforce development at several private firms and with local governmental agencies. In her most recent full-time position, she was the Director of Education and Workforce Development for AVETEC, a high technology start-up focused on engineering and testing of advanced jet engines. In this position she also served as the Principal Investigator for research and evaluation of the education and workforce development initiatives including initiatives through the Air Force Institute of Technology, the Advanced Technical Intelligence Center, the National Air and Space Intelligence Center, and AT&T government services. She was Co-Principal Investigator for a federal National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education grant.

Roles and Responsibilities of Partners

EPIC will:

- Provide three years of access to its research-based CampusReady survey to assess students' college and career readiness and will provide individual student data, extracted for the district's use in data analysis and advising. EPIC will also provide access to CampusReady for SCSD teachers and counselors.
- Review the SCSD CampusReady results and prepare best practice guidance and select key resources to assist SCSD staff as they plan instructional practice changes.
- Provide materials to set local results in larger (national) context for the June Professional Development session.
- Assist SCSD in planning a College and Career Summit in August, 2014, and will provide a keynote speaker.
- Assist in designing an evaluation plan to allow SCSD and guiding staff to assess the impact of interventions on student outcomes at several intervals during five years.

SOCHE will:

- License its online college internship application platform, giving SCSD the rights to modify it for high school internship use. SOCHE will permit SCSD to extend the license to the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, beginning in 2015, if SCSD indicates that the Chamber will serve as the coordinator of internships for multiple school districts in Clark County, Ohio.
- Provide releases for the developer of this platform to make the modifications SCSD desires, and will release SOCHE's administrator of this platform to provide paid consulting services to SCSD to facilitate that process.
- Provide hosting of the modified internship platform.
- Provide, as an in kind contribution, consultation and advice based on its own experience matching college interns with businesses in this region.
- Encourage SCSD guiding staff to attend appropriate conferences sponsored by SOCHE.
- Facilitate introductions to regional college and business stakeholders who are also engaged in college and career readiness, to support ongoing collaboration.

The Chamber will:

- Convene its workforce development task force (including K-12, post secondary, and business members) to facilitate discussion of key issues and opportunities.
- Facilitate collaboration and planning assistance from the Dayton Development Coalition, which is researching workforce needs.
- Continue to support the planning for a community-wide internship system.

- Publicize SCSD's work and the task force's work to its members and to related organizations statewide.
- Assist in planning the August Summit and will provide a keynote speaker.
- Review internship application platforms and invite representative businesses to evaluate these platforms.
- Investigate becoming the single source for coordination of future internships.

Department of Jobs and Family Services will:

- Continue to serve on the Career Readiness Advisory Panel and the Chamber's Workforce Development Task Force.
- Provide information on employment opportunities and workforce issues to SCSD staff.
- Provide access to the ACT WorkKeys assessment and National Career Readiness Certification to SCSD students who participate in workplace readiness training.
- Assist in the evaluation of high school internships.
- Assist in the expansion of high school internships by identifying companies willing to train mentors and then host interns.
- Provide access to the Ohio Means Jobs online portal during the pilot period to allow the high school internship needs to be communicated to State planners.
- Participate as a planner and presenter at the June PD and the August Summit.

Clark State Community College will:

- Continue to provide faculty and administrative staff members to serve on the College Readiness Advisory Panel.
- Provide faculty and administrative staff to serve as EPIC advisors.
- Develop and present college readiness programming to students and parents.
- Provide instructors (which will be paid through the grant) to present Customer Service training and certification (40 hours) and OSHA 10 training and certification (30 hours).
- Develop articulation agreements to provide SCSD students more opportunities to access college aligned coursework.
- Share information on the remediation needs of SCSD graduates.
- Advise SHS staff as they consider developing school-day college readiness classes or orientation experiences.
- Participate as a planner and presenter in the August Summit.

Central State University will:

- Continue to provide faculty and administrative staff members to serve on the College Readiness Advisory Panel.

- Provide faculty and administrative staff to serve as EPIC advisors.
- Develop and present college readiness programming to students and parents.
- Share information on the remediation needs of SCSD graduates.
- Participate as a planner and presenter in the August Summit.

Wittenberg University will:

- Continue to provide faculty and administrative staff members to serve on the College Readiness Advisory Panel.
- Provide faculty and administrative staff to serve as EPIC advisors.
- Develop and present college readiness programming to students and parents.
- Develop a panel of college and business people to provide panel discussions with SCSD teacher leaders and counselors to support planning June PD and August Summit.
- Participate as a planner and presenter in the August Summit.
- Share information on the remediation needs of SCSD graduates.

Wright State University will:

- Continue to provide faculty and administrative staff members to serve on the College Readiness Advisory Panel.
- Provide faculty and administrative staff to serve as EPIC advisors.
- Develop and present college readiness programming to students and parents.
- Advise SHS staff as they consider developing school-day college readiness classes or orientation experiences.
- Develop articulation agreements to provide SCSD students more opportunities to access college aligned coursework.
- Share information on the remediation needs of SCSD graduates.
- Participate as a planner and presenter in the August Summit.

Cathy Balas will:

- Serve the role of College and Career Readiness Coordinator during the grant-funded period.
- Coordinate the data input and analysis required to inform the professional development planned during this grant-funded period.
- Serve as the lead in collaborative planning of the June PD and the August Summit.
- Assist SCSD in managing grant-funded activities including EPIC assessment and advising, internship placement, online internship system evaluation, communication with CCR partners.
- Assist SCSD in refining and documenting processes and procedures used in this system of CCR.
- Develop a plan for evaluation of this system.