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**North Texas Regional P-16 Council Meeting Minutes**

**May 9, 2017**

**9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Collin College – Preston Ridge Campus

9700 Wade Blvd.

Frisco, TX 75035

**Members Present: Jill Adams, Michelle Buggs, V. Barbara Bush, Elizabeth Caudill, Ray de los Santos, Dexter Freeman, II, Wendy Gruver, Mary Harris, Christine Hubbard, Jean Keller, Barbara Lerner, Karrabi Malin, Raul Martinez, Mike Mattingly, Cornelia McCowan, Jann Miles, DeShandra O’Neal, Don Perry, Lesley Regalado, Patsy Robles-Goodwin, Rosalyn Walker (Guests: Kim Gilson, Brenda Kihl, and Joe Pouncy)**

1. **Greetings, Introductions and Refreshments**

* Jean Keller opened the meeting with thanks to Collin College for hosting and acknowledgement to Raul Martinez.
* Brenda Kihl, Executive VP of Collin College, welcomed the Council and shared exciting initiatives in Collin County.

1. **Approval of Minutes**
* Council meeting minutes from February 7, 2017, were approved by consensus.
1. **Regional Data**
* V. Barbara Bush focused on access and success through all educational avenues. She presented an overview of the 2015 GAP Analysis Report assembled by Drs. Harris, Keller and Xu representing Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Region 3 and Texas Education Agency Education Service Center (ESC) Regions 10 and 11. Please see <http://ntrp16.org/gap-analysis-reports> for additional information.
* Demographic trends show that by 2020, the African American and Hispanic populations attending college will be up, while the white population will drop by 3%. High school graduation rates for the region are increasing. The north Texas regional data demonstrated the following trends: 1. Increase in two-year college enrollment and consistent enrollments in four-year programs; 2. More woman are going to college than men; and 3. College loans slightly increased and first year wages slightly decreased for college graduates.
* V. Barbara noted she will dig deeper into the discussion of success rates for students requiring developmental education verses those not requiring development education at the next meeting.
1. **60x30TX Discussion**
* Raul Martinez introduced Dr. Rex Peebles, Assistant Commissioner, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Dr. Peebles spoke to three important issues addressed below.
	1. 60x30TX Website
* The website is being developed. Over time, the goal is to track various initiatives targeted to increase completion of college degrees and earning certificates to reach the 60x30TX goal.

2. Dual Credit

* Dr. Peebles acknowledged lack of data to indicate the effect of dual credit. The biggest concern is are high school students college ready when they enroll in college courses? How are dual credit college courses affecting college and high school curricula related to rigor, relevancy, and alignment? Are 8th graders ready to start college prep courses? Are students being assigned dual credit classes without understanding what it means? Currently, Dr. Peebles is meeting every other month with dual credit work groups to identify challenges and gather information and data.

3. Transfer Students

* In the current legislative session, issues about transfer students are critical aside from the budget. A Transferability Workgroup has been tasked with fixing the problem of “loss of transfer” – why two-year college students are not transferring to four-year colleges. Studies have shown students are losing an average of 15-16 hours when they obtain a two-year associate degree and then transfer to a four-year college. Why is this happening and how can it be stopped?
* Better advising is needed from high school counselors. Right now, counselors are given an impossible job. There is one counselor per 600 students.
* The hypothesis right now is the Early College High School is better than the Dual Credit program, but there is no clear way to distinguish between the two to compare data and student success. A student’s social and emotional learning matters because ECHS students enter college as high school juniors.

Dr. Peebles opened up the floor to questions:

**Question**: V. Barbara Bush asked, what the Coordinating Board is doing to increase cooperation with TEA? **Response:** Dr. Peebles replied that the THECB needs more discussion with TEA and with the Texas Workforce Commission. Local ISDs and community colleges need to improve communication. P-16 councils across the state need to model themselves after this Council.

**Question**: Ray de los Santos asked, how can we deal with students in transition? **Response:** Dr. Peebles shared more work is needed in this area.

**Question**: Barbara Lerner asked, if there can be a shift toward promotion of best practices in dual credit transfer? She advocated moving the conversation to what is best for students. **Response:** Dr. Peebles said, not every institution is well behaved. Students have a myriad of choices – programs and classes, and these may or may not be received by the college the students wishes to transfer to. We need to reduce choices and promote course transferability. Dr. Peebles indicated Texas has 60 higher education systems and they don’t all work together. They do what they want in their own silos. This is a challenge and opportunity.

**Question**: Mike Mattingly asked, how do we determine if a student is really college ready when there aren’t solid measures in place? Mike shared the importance of emotional and social readiness as well as intellectual preparedness. **Response:** Dr. Peebles answered by saying students need to be made aware of living-learning communities, mentoring programs, and other resources that will help them transition to college.

Raul thanked Dr. Peebles for his contribution to the Council.

1. **Discussion, Reflections, and Actions**
* Christine Hubbard summarized three areas from Dr. Peebles’ presentation focusing on what the Council and its Committees can address during the 2017-2018 year:
1. Data.
* How connected are transfer students to their colleges? Explore issues of engagement through focus groups and interviews.
1. Support student readiness, including social and emotional readiness.
* Share expectations with students and parents, and support faculty awareness of changing expectations. Change college teaching styles related to course levels. Work with 8th graders to get them ready for college courses.
1. Collaboration.
* Tri-Agency (THEC, TEA, & Workforce); K-12, 2-year, 4-year colleges, transfer, and internship counselors and advisers must work together.

Each committee needs to explore these areas related to their upcoming work goals.

Long term goals may be to:

1. Continue to clarify dual credit and what that means with proper policies and procedures in place.
2. Transition to support student orientation, mentoring, living-learning communities, and housing.
3. Counselor workshops.
4. **Committee Reports**
5. **Communications, Networking & Social Media –** Council should use its twitter account more. A Linkedin Profile can be added to the website. The Facebook account should become more active. A refined website is going to roll out at the December 2017 Council meeting with hopes that it will be user friendly and meet the needs of all.
6. **Funding & Sustainability –**Ray de los Santos shared the committee is exploring entrepreneurial ventures such as data compilation, policy briefs, and grants with doctoral student support.
7. **Professional Development –** Michelle Buggs reported the committee will be working on sharing information across K-12 and 2- to 4- year colleges at counselor workshops; engaging workforce partners; preparing teachers to be able to teach embedded dual credit.
8. **Research, Assessment & Accountability –** V. Barbara Bush shared there are three areas the committee would like to explore: progress of undocumented students; Region 10’s data about homeless students; and developmental education and its impact on students’ academic progress and degree completion.
9. **2016-17 NTRP-16 Council Meeting Dates and Programs – 9:00am – 12:00 pm**

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| *Date* | *Place* | *Host* | *Topics* | *Program Facilitator* |
| *September 19, 2017* | *Communities Foundation* | *Denise Devora* | *Legislature/Pathway Bills* | *Don Perry* |
| *December 12, 2017* | *ESC Region 11* | *Pam Brown* | *Endorsement/**College Awareness* | *Barbara Lerner**DeShandra O’Neal*  |
| *February 13, 2018* | *TWU Dallas* | *Michelle Buggs* | *Predictive Analytics* | *V. Barbara Bush* |
| *May 8, 2018* | *TCCD* | *Fred Schmidt* | *Trends, Impacts, and Issues of Advanced Academics (AP, IB, and Dual Credit) Related to Student Success* | *Christine Hubbard* |

1. **Adjournment**

Jean Keller adjourned the meeting; thanked Dr. Peebles for coming to North Texas P-16 Council and sharing current issues; and Collin College for hosting a wonderful meeting. She wished all a pleasant summer and encouraged all to mark their calendars with the Council’s 2017-2018 meetings.