



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

Building a Stronger State of Minds

The Collaborative Counselor Training Initiative in Utah

Melissa Miller Kincart
Assistant Commissioner, Outreach and Access
College/Career Affinity Group
December 10, 2013



Utah System of Higher Education Facts

- Eight public colleges and universities
- 179,871 students enrolled 2012-13 (80% of all college students in Utah)
- 31,339 credentials awarded in spring 2012 (75% of all credentials awarded in Utah)
- Third lowest in total cost to attend college
- Enrollment projected to increase by 28% in next 10 years
- Second in nation for fewest state dollars spent per degree
- **Big Goal: 66% of Utahns have a credential by 2020**

Utah State Board of Regents

Strategic Priorities for Achieving Utah's Big Goal

1. Increase the rate of student participation in higher education (postsecondary education programs).
2. Increase the rate of student completion in their chosen field of study or training.
3. Increase the level of economic innovation.

Increase Student Participation



COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE G R A N T

- The Board of Regents is designated by the Governor to apply and receive the College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) from the U.S. Department of Education.
- Pursuing the following three objectives:
 - 1) To provide information to students and families on postsecondary education.
 - 2) To develop and deliver professional development resources for school counselors as well as financial aid, college access and admissions, and outreach personnel.
 - 3) To expand and enhance the statewide infrastructure to significantly increase the number of low-income and underrepresented students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

Utah Collaborative Counselor Training Initiative Goals

- To strengthen Utah's counseling training and professional development programs.
- To customize SREB's curriculum.
- To map the college and career readiness curriculum with existing courses and develop infused and/or stand alone course offerings.
- To train facilitators and participate in the CCTI national network.
- To deploy the new curriculum into the pre-service programs at the University of Utah and Utah State University.
- Determine additional professional development opportunities and audiences who can benefit from the training modules.

University of Utah: Pre-service

- 15 school counseling graduate students have completed all four modules of the CCTI curriculum and 14 first-year students will experience the curriculum delivery plan in its final form (being delivered through four existing graduate courses) starting in August 2014.
- Two students were hired as interim College and Career Readiness Specialists in Granite School District this spring as a result of their participation in this curriculum.
- The U of U was successful in gaining approval from the Faculty Senate, the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Regents for an emphasis titled “School Counseling and College and Career Readiness” that will be granted to all recipients of the Masters of Education in Educational Psychology.

Utah State University: Pre-service

- In February 2013 the faculty of USU's School Counselor Education Program approved adoption of the CCTI curriculum and developed PSY 6610: College and Career Readiness for School Counselors.
- Three USU faculty members have completed the SREB facilitator training. Two of these faculty members will be teaching the College and Career Readiness (CCR) courses. One teaching assistant completed the course and has assisted with development of the CCR courses, presentations and promotion.
- Forty-seven students at USU completed the hybrid CCTI course by August 2013.
- Pre- and post-measure assessments are being developed to evaluate student outcomes.

Professional Development Deployment

- The University of Utah, in cost-share partnership with Granite School District, offered a 6-week online professional development summer version for 13 counselors.
- In summer of 2013 Utah State University offered 3-Credit ED PS 6260: College and Career Readiness for School Counselors .
- CHALLENGES
 - ✓ Administration and teacher buy-in
 - ✓ Time to plan and prioritize
 - ✓ Financing of this program without burdening the students with ANY of the costs (other than the time involved in participating in the activities).
 - ✓ Effective moderators to manage the online course.

Next Steps

- Both institutions are considering the professional development version of the CCTI curriculum to offer as in-service to school counselors to begin Spring 2014.
- Seek cost-share partnerships with local school districts.
- Create partnerships with University of Utah/USU admissions and recruitment offices with purpose of getting the word out about upcoming professional development classes and look to partner financially.
- Cultivate opportunities with Utah College Access Network (GEAR UP, UCAC, TRiO, etc.)
- Meet again with the State Office of Education.
- Get on agenda at district and/or state principals meeting to educate them about CCTI and enlist their support at the school level.
- Work with SREB to pilot additional outcome data through post-course assessment.

Contact Information

Melissa Miller Kincart

Assistant Commissioner, Outreach and Access

Utah System of Higher Education

mmkincart@ushe.edu

Paul Gore

Utah CCTI Project Director and SREB Liaison

Director, Institutional Analysis

Associate Professor of Educational Psychology

University of Utah

paul.gore@ed.utah.edu

Camille Odell

Director, School Counselor Education Program

Clinical Instructor of Psychology

Utah State University

camille.odell@usu.edu