

**DE-CAN  
(Delaware College Access Network)  
Meeting Notes for November 13, 2008  
Cabinet Room, Townsend Building**

**Welcome/Highlights from September Meeting**

Dr. Joseph Pika, Chair of DE-CAN, welcomed the large number of committee members to the meeting. Introductions were made for the benefit of new attendees. He explained that the purpose of this committee is to address the problem of increasing Delaware students' access into higher education and improving their completion rates. The meeting was held in the Cabinet Room of the Townsend Building in Dover, DE.

The highlights of the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting were reviewed. No edits or corrections were suggested.

Dr. Judi Coffield provided an update on the status of the Lumina Foundation funding opportunity. It was learned that the Lumina Foundation had misplaced our application and that 2008 grant funds had been awarded. There have been staff changes in the organization. Mr. Matthews was promoted to a VP position and is doing a great deal of international travel. The new assistant is Lisa Dunham. She will be our new contact and has taken a personal interest in our request. Although this will cause a delay in funding the work, it may turn out for the better. Dr. Coffield was told that the 2008 grant monies were awarded to international projects and that our application stood a better chance of being funded with the 2009 applications. The '09 grants will be reviewed in early January and checks will be cut to grantees in late January. The letter of inquiry was resubmitted via fax and e-mail. We now have a tracking number and have been assured that our request is in the Lumina system for consideration in January.

Dennis Rozumalski, Education Associate Student Services and Special Populations, is the Delaware representative working with the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and other participating states to develop professional development modules for guidance counselors. This work is being funded through Delaware's College Access Challenge Grant (CACG). The modules are expected to be completed in June with training provided this summer. Current plans are to train four facilitators in each participating state in the use of the modules. Future sessions will be offered through a train-the-trainer model. The target audience for the modules is middle school, high school and postsecondary counselors. The modules will be customizable so that they will address Delaware-specific needs.

**Updates from Subcommittees**

Higher Education- Dr. Whittaker:

Dr. Terry Whittaker shared a report that included recommendations for action from the Higher Education Subcommittee. The subcommittee met on September 22 and October 20, 2008, and continued the work via conference calls and e-

mails. The work began by defining several terms: college-readiness, access, retention and graduation (see the attached full report dated November 13, 2008). The next step was to collect information regarding each institution's mission, admission requirements, first year general education courses, retention plans and goals, first year experience programs/orientation programs, academic advising and support practices, and retention and graduation rates. A matrix was developed to gather the information and to conduct a gap analysis that was used to determine action recommendations. A component of the analysis was to compare the findings with practices and policies taken from a thorough literature review.

The findings of the analysis shed a great deal of light on current higher education practices. For example, no institution makes a statement about commitment to student success or college completion in their mission statements. One institution (DSU) had a retention plan in place. Both UD and DSU have required freshmen year programs. All institutions administer pre-college outreach programs. For a full listing of findings, please refer to the attached report.

The committee concluded the report with a series of recommendations and next steps. The recommendations were provided as they relate to three specific areas: high school to college practices and policies, pre-college outreach practices and policies and college/university practices and policies. While the group acknowledges that many of the recommendations are currently underway in Delaware, they felt it important to include them to validate their importance and to maintain visibility and support for sustaining the work.

Next steps include the continuation of the subcommittee to prioritize the recommendations, establish and document goals and a timeline, document action steps to achieve the goals, and record resources required to implement action steps and expected outcomes. Through this work, the subcommittee proposes to develop a systemic solution for increasing student success in higher education.

It was proposed that the work of this subcommittee continue with expanded membership. The addition of Dennis Rozumalski and Maureen Laffey will add another dimension to the conversation.

#### Actionable Networks- Shannon Griffin:

The subcommittee has not met since the last DECAN meeting; however, Shannon Griffin and John Carwell have been working to develop a pilot of an actionable network joining Delaware's Parent Leadership Institute with an effort at DTCC to provide financial aid support. The project is being piloted in New Castle County with Kent and Sussex Counties already expressing an interest in replicating the effort. The project involves opening DTCC computer labs with DTCC staff support providing assistance at various time slots to sponsoring agencies. Agencies are required to provide students with a checklist of what materials they are to bring (PIN numbers, W-2s, etc.) to enable them to complete the FAFSA online with expert support. Agencies are also required to have a

community/organization representative onsite during their assigned time slot. The goal for the New Castle County Pilot is to serve 200 students through 30 participating organizations. This goal was set based upon the limitations of the two available labs that house 15 computers each. The pilot will take place during the month of February.

Dr. Terry Whittaker stated that other institutions of higher education might be willing to replicate the model. Maureen Laffey asked if they were coordinating with the DTCC and YMCA around their College Goal Sunday.

Communications- Susan Haberstroh:

Susan Haberstroh shared that contact has been made with Janet Hughes and Associates to begin work on the YES YOU CAN web portal. Funds from the recently awarded CACG grant were allocated to update and expand the website for use as a “one-stop shopping” point of access to information for students and parents. She also shared an example of a student survey called “Speak Out” that was conducted using the site. 2500 students responded to the electronic survey as did 90 guidance counselors. The site generated 129,000 hits and has 1124 people listed as “friends” on MYSPACE.

Shannon Griffin asked us to consider how we can sustain this site. Now that we have more funding (CACG grant) we can work on it, but what happens when the funds run out or go away? She stated that it is time to put this into action and support it with some money.

Alan Phillips, Delaware Higher Education Commission (DHEC), expressed concern that the financial aid information on the site needs to be better. He and Maureen Laffey (also DHEC) offered their assistance to improve the content of that information on the site. Alan also shared that the federal government is going to be requiring colleges and universities to report a net price figure (including room, board, tuition minus financial aid) to combat the “sticker shock” that parents and students often experience when considering what their out-of-pocket expenses will be for higher education. This information will help families see that colleges and universities are far more affordable when grants and aid are taken into account and discover that they have many more choices available.

This conversation led to the question: Who needs to review the Yes You Can website to ensure accuracy?

Data Committee- Jennifer Bausmith:

The data committee met with representatives from the DOE to discuss what kinds of data are currently available to help us determine baselines. We need to determine how we will know we are successful in our efforts. The data subcommittee has identified a number of indicators based upon our desired outcomes. We will use the data for two purposes: 1) to determine our baselines (where we are now) and 2) to determine hot/cold spots for our tiered communication efforts. We plan to implement a broad-based universal Yes You

Can message, while at the same time, using data to identify subpopulations at greatest risk to be given a more targeted message with a hands-on community based outreach through actionable networks.

Don Berry and Ted Jarrell, DOE, provided an overview of available data on the DOE website and in the Communities Count Book, the proposed DECAN indicators, and the use of a GIS application to graphically map hot/cold spots across the state. The DOE interactive mapping tool can be found at: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/schools/mapping/interactive.shtml> Click on the first link called: [Delaware School & District Map](#)

Alan Phillips, DHEC, reported on the progress of indicators that will be obtained from the National Clearinghouse and the P-20 Longitudinal Data System (LDS). He stated that we currently have two years worth of data in the LDS and that with the fall data submission, we would have three submissions with which to work on tracking students over time. He is awaiting reports from the TMD workgroup to begin the next phase of the work.

It was suggested that the Data Subcommittee meet with the Actionable Networks Subcommittee and the Communications Subcommittee to mesh efforts in finding partners and to target levels for tiered outreach and communication.

## Wrap Up

Dr. Coffield was asked to sketch out where all the pieces of the P-20 Council and its committees are with a comprehensive, global description of status. This should include a description of who is serving on the Council and committees along with information regarding who they represent. This will facilitate conversations within organizations and institutions.

## Future Meeting Schedule-

Date	Location	Time
December Subcommittee Meetings	TBD	TBD
January 13, 2009	Cabinet Room, Townsend Building	9:30 – 11:30 am