

FY08 New Look Final Report

Title of your New Look Project: Postsecondary Career Development & Assessment

Partners:

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Special Populations Targeted: (check all that apply)

Economically Disadvantaged

Implementation Date(s): November & December 2007 and January, February and April 2008

Goals:

- A. List long and short-term goals for your New Look Project.**
 - B. Explain how those particular goals were aligned with your New Look Project.**
 - C. How did you plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the project in meeting the stated goals?**
 - D. Describe plans for sustainability and for accomplishment of the long-term project goals.**
- A. Long-Term: To promote high school graduation and postsecondary education through the Tech Prep Dual Credit pilot program, especially to high school students who think that lacking financial resources is a barrier to college.
Short-Term: To improve NOCTI Assessment scores of BACC seniors between fall and spring semesters. Tutors will be provided to assist students. This will be measured with the pre-test and post-test scores, determining if there was improvement.
- B. We wanted to give high school seniors with financial need an extra incentive to not only graduate from high school, but to give some serious thought to their future careers. By providing scholarships for eligible students, we hoped to reach those students who wanted to pursue postsecondary education, but did not believe they had the finances to do so. This project provided them with the means by removing the financial barrier of college, thereby encouraging students to graduate. Knowing they could now go to college also gave them the motivation to taking the NOCTI assessments more seriously.
- C. 1. To measure the Long-Term Goals: Determine what percentage of students in this cohort graduated from high school and went on to pursue a postsecondary education. 100% of the students in this project graduated from high school.
2. To measure the Short-Term Goals: Determine the percentage of BACC students who did improve between the first and last time they took the test. 100% of the students who took this test improved their test scores from the pre to the post test.
- D. The NOCTI test was used to provide the students with an overall evaluation of how they scored in their skilled area versus other students in the state and the nation. This exam can also be used at the post secondary level for future assessments. HCC has the capability to determine how many of the students in the cohort are still enrolled, and may do so once enrollment for fall is complete, in August. The only difficulty may be a lack of appropriate resources (staff and time) in order to complete this very time-consuming task. HCC is improving some of its technology, and in the future, this type of thing could be quite simple to do, but currently, the technology is not quite where it needs to be in order to simplify this project. The problem is finding out if students are attending other postsecondary institutions. There has been

discussion about sharing resources, including student data between secondary and postsecondary institutions in order to better track students, but until that is ready to be utilized, it may be difficult for the secondary schools to get that type of data on their students.

Activities:

Describe activities implemented and/or products developed. Submit samples if applicable.

Seniors at the BACC took the NOCTI Assessment in each occupational area. The initial test took place in November 2007, and then post-tested in April 2008. In order to be eligible, students had to be enrolled in dual credit and/or articulated credit courses offered by Heartland Community College (with preference given to dual credit successful completers), and had to plan to attend HCC. Scholarship recipients were based on both the NOCTI post-test scores and grades in dual credit and/or articulated credit from HCC (preference given to dual credit) combined with HCC financial aid application status as well as timely completion of HCC enrollment procedures, including SOAR (assessment and enrollment).

A maximum of 12 students were to be selected as finalists for the scholarship, and a SOAR session was scheduled exclusively for this group of students, which included registration and assessment at HCC. Only 3 students completed the entire application process in a timely manner, so there are no runner-ups. Scholarship funds will be distributed in 2 portions, half for fall semester and the remaining half in the spring. All scholarship winners will be required to do the following in order to receive the 2nd part of the scholarship:

- Maintain 2.5 grade point average during their first semester at HCC
- Enroll at HCC in during the 2009 Spring Semester

*The New Look Scholarship Application, included with this report, contains this information as well

Evaluation:

A. What conclusions were drawn during your assessment? Did you meet your short –term goals? Did you make progress toward meeting your long-term goals?

Yes, we were successful at meeting our short and long term goals. Those students who took part in this project all graduated and have been accepted and plan to attend HCC this fall.

B. What plans do you have for utilizing evaluation feedback in planning for similar activities?

We plan to utilize the feedback to encourage students to continue their educational studies at the post secondary level and to take advantage of the services offered to those who are planning to pursue a career in technical education.

C. What outcomes or changes occurred to your program as a result of the project?

Due to the nature of our initial project we had to make drastic changes to our project which hindered our progress with the students in our targeted population. We were not able to utilize the time table that we were given and therefore the entire project changed due to the changes that occurred from the funding source. Nevertheless, we were still able to provide some of the students that were selected the technical assistance needed in order to be successful at the postsecondary level.

D. Which of the following Illinois Core Performance Indicators did your project assist your program in reaching?

Postsecondary

- | | | |
|---|-----|----------------------------|
| X | 1P1 | Technical Skill Attainment |
| X | 4P1 | Student Placement |

Secondary

- | | | |
|---|-----|----------------------------|
| X | 2S1 | Technical Skill Attainment |
| X | 4S1 | Student Graduation Rates |

E. Please provide information regarding the impact of your project, including: collaborating agencies, total number of students served, total number of educators served, materials distributed, and other pertinent quantitative information.

Our initial project had the potential to be very impactful to the students at the BACC, but not all of our programs are dual credit which in turn caused us to lose a large number of the students that could have been served. Moving forward, we can offer the project to all students in the center without some of the criteria that was selected. We will also need to consider offering the project to students who are attending other local post secondary institutions as well to increase the number of students taking part in this project. 90% of the students, faculty and staff were provided the information on the project as well as technical support if needed to complete the paperwork process. A total of 4 students completed the process and three were selected to receive the project support.

F. Provide feedback received from organizers, participants, and/or observers on the effectiveness of your program or product.

The timing of this project made it difficult to be effective since it occurred during a time of the school year when there was a great deal of student testing, college visits, placement exams, etc... and most of the students didn't take advantage of the project and the support that it could have provided to them.

G. Based on the results of your evaluation, feedback, and personal reflection, what modifications could be made to improve your New Look Project?

This project would need to start at the beginning of the school year. This way we are able to identify the students sooner and provide them with support services from the beginning of the project to the end. This will also give us the chance to bring in additional academic and technical support to them as well.

Dissemination:

A. Provide photos of students participating in your event or using your product. (Digital photos are preferable.) Finally, if you received press coverage of your project, please include news clippings, web addresses, or contact information.

We are planning this event in early August, right before the fall semester. We are still trying to determine what type of event to have and who else to include other than the 2 staff from BACC and HCC who wrote this grant request. At that time, we will certainly invite ICSPS and afterwards, share the photos and/or press release with everyone.

Technical Assistance Feedback:

A. In general, your experience with the FY08 New Look Project was ...

Good

B. The most valuable aspect(s) of the FY08 New Look Project was...

The financial support

The professional development, goal setting and networking opportunities

C. Did you request any technical assistance for your FY08 New Look Project?

Yes

D. Overall, how was your experience with your Technical Assistance Liaison?

Excellent

E. If anyone were to ask you if the money devoted to the New Look Project has made a difference in your institution's ability to serve special populations, what would you say?

It definitely has made a difference. It allowed us to assist high school graduates to go to college, something they could not previously afford to do. It has made a difference to those scholarship recipients and their families and of course to us.

F. Will you consider applying for another New Look Project in the future?

Yes

<u>FY08 New Look Final Budget</u>	<u>FY08 Final Budget</u>
Beginning Balance	<u>\$1500.00</u>
General Supplies and Materials	<u>\$1500.00</u>
<u>Total Award Expended</u>	<u>\$1500.00</u>