



A Southeastern Massachusetts
Public Higher Education
Partnership

FY2010 YEAR-END REPORT

STEM LEADERSHIP

CONNECT conducted a strategic planning session for the Southeast Regional Pre-K-16 STEM Network at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth on February 25, 2010. Representatives agreed that CONNECT would continue to serve as convener of the Network, with the former Cape and Islands STEM Network merging into the Southeast Network.

In June, CONNECT was awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Department of Higher Education to continue its role as administrator of the Southeast Regional PreK-16 STEM Network. The grant supports CONNECT in organizing quarterly meetings and building a directory of STEM resources while continuing to provide connection and communications to the region's STEM providers. A second Network meeting was held May 3, 2010 at Wheaton College.

Currently, CONNECT is in the process of wrapping up the reporting for several previously funded DHE-supported projects:

SUMMER 2009 DHE PIPELINE FUNDED SUMMER CAMPS

The Southeast Regional Prek-16 STEM Network coordinated two

science summer programs for middle school students thanks to Year Two grant funding from the Department of Higher Education's STEM Pipeline Fund. Forty-one middle school students learned about Building a Sustainable City at UMASS Dartmouth and 39 Fall River students studied *CSI-Forensics* at the Durfee High School program, both in July, 2009.

PRE-AP TEACHER TRAINING

A \$20,000 grant from the Department of Higher Education enabled the Southcoast Prek-16 STEM Network to work with Mass Insight to deliver pre-AP training to three area school districts: Wareham, Attleboro, and Bridgewater-Raynham. The training occurred at Bridgewater-Raynham High School in August, 2009.

2009 - 2010 MTEL PREPARATION IN STEM FIELDS

More than 30 Education students have attended MTEL preparation seminars in the STEM fields at Bridgewater State College and UMASS Dartmouth through funding from the 2007 Department of Higher Education STEM Pipeline Grant. June 30th marks the end of the three-year grant.

CONNECT STAFF



Dr. Kathleen Kirby

The CONNECT CEOs appointed Dr. Kathleen Kirby the new executive director of the CONNECT Partnership in November 2009. Dr. Kirby previously held positions as Director of the Bridgewater State College Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects and Manager of

Foundation Relations at New Hampshire Public Television. She holds a Ph.D. in English from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and brings over 15 years of experience in organizational development and strategic planning, fund raising and public relations, and educational program management.

Dr. Kirby joins Kim Williams, CONNECT Staff Assistant since 2006.

Former Executive Director Dr. Jane Souza left CONNECT to become the Chief Academic Officer at the New England Institute of Art in July 2009. The CONNECT CEOs thank Dr. Souza for her nearly four years of service and wish her the best in her new role.

CONNECT LEADERSHIP

CHAIRPERSON

Dr. Jean F. MacCormack

Chancellor

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

TREASURER

Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria

President

Bridgewater State College

Dr. John J. Sbrega

President

Bristol Community College

Dr. Kathleen Schatzberg

President

Cape Cod Community College

RADM Richard Gurnon

President

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Dr. Charles Wall

President

Massasoit Community College



CEOs as pictured are standing, from left to right: President John J. Sbrega, President Dana Mohler-Faria, President Charles Wall, Admiral Richard Gurnon. Seated, from left to right: President Kathleen Schatzberg, Chancellor Jean F. MacCormack.

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Expect More. Achieve More.



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CONNECT EVENTS



Mark David Milliron at CONNECT Chairs Conference.

CONNECT CHAIRS CONFERENCE

With the CONNECT campuses joined by New England Institute of Art, Northern Essex Community College, Salem State College, and Springfield Technical Community College, 75 individuals attended

insights

- Dramatic Change Continues
- The Swirl is Stretching Strategy
- The Blender is On
- Upward Mobility is Possible
- Get Serious about Play
- From Social to Learning Nets
- The Classroom Lives!
- Take Action with Analytics
- Personal Connections Count
- Insanity is Not an Option

the second CONNECT Chairs Conference, "Shaping the Academy of the Future." Mark David Milliron was the keynote speaker at the November 20, 2009 event held at the Conference Center at Massasoit. In addition to the keynote, sessions focused on communicating effectively, legal issues, practical management and transitions.

CONNECT MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE

Dr. Becky Wai-Ling Packard gave the keynote address at the third annual CONNECT Mathematics Conference, Friday, February 26, 2010 at Bridgewater State College. "College Math Initiatives from Your Backyard" was the theme that attracted 65 attendees. Five CONNECT campuses were represented, along with the Braintree Public Schools, Cengage Learning, Greenfield Community College, Middlesex Community College, Mount Wachusett Community College, Northern Essex Community College, and Westfield State College.

CONNECT WRITING CONFERENCE

"Supporting College Writers in the Classroom" was the theme of the sixth annual CONNECT Composition Conference, May 21, 2010 at Cape Cod Community College. Over eighty participants registered to learn about teaching English Language Learners, incorporating the CONNECT Common Outcomes for Writing into their teaching, and other pedagogical issues. Dr. Carol Severino, Director of the Writing Center at the University of Iowa, gave the keynote presentation.

NEW AND ONGOING PROJECTS



A Sea Science and Leadership Program attendee does hands-on work.

SUMMER OF SCIENCE

This collaboration amongst the six CONNECT institutions of higher education is designed to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education and achievement to K-12 students. The CONNECT campuses are publicizing the importance of STEM by joining together to promote the science- and invention-focused summer camps and programs they offer. A Summer of Science poster highlighting the programs has been distributed to nearly 800 schools, libraries, museums, college campuses, and educational agencies.

A launch event will take place July 9, 2010 at Massachusetts Maritime Academy, with Governor Deval Patrick and leaders from education and industry invited to speak. Hands-on exhibits and demonstrations will introduce kids to the fun and rewards of STEM. CONNECT is currently engaged in a media campaign promoting the event. Around 200 attendees are expected.

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CLDP)

A cohort of 38 individuals from the six CONNECT institutions, along with Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Bunker Hill Community College and Framingham State College, participated in eight months of professional development sessions ranging from Effective Communication to Conflict Resolution to Legal Issues and Collective Bargaining. 2009-2010 marked the sixth year that the Human Resources directors of the CONNECT institutions have offered the CLDP training to mid-level higher education professionals in the region.

CONNECTING IN THE SCIENCES

Initiatives in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics/Engineering have been funded through mini-grants from CONNECT. Faculty from all CONNECT campuses met in June for one-day conversations around curriculum content, articulations, and transferability in the sciences at CONNECT campuses.

“The Leadership Program in general has been more than satisfactory in providing me with valuable knowledge and skills required for optimum job performance. The interaction with participants in the various areas of college business life was extremely rewarding and gave me a better understanding of the issues we all face and where I can look for support.”

CLDP PARTICIPANT

PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

REGIONAL WORKFORCE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND SUMMIT

An Economic Development Summit is being planned for Fall 2010. This event, and the accompanying release of a CONNECT Economic Impact Report, will showcase how public higher education acts as a driver for economic and workforce development in Southeastern Massachusetts.

CLDP ALUMNI PROGRAM

The CONNECT HR Directors are in the process of planning the first CLDP Alumni Program, tentatively scheduled for October 29, 2010. The program will be open to all former attendees of the CLDP and offer advanced training on legal and contractual issues and conflict of interest guidelines.

COLLEGE READINESS CONFERENCE

A College Readiness Conference, in collaboration with the Southeastern Massachusetts Readiness Center, is being planned by CONNECT Academic Support Specialists, Chief Academic Officers, and Writing and Math faculty for Spring 2011.

SUSTAINABILITY SHOWCASE

The CONNECT Sustainability working group, CONNECT CEOs and the Executive Director are engaged in ongoing conversations about building an inventory of their environmentally-related curriculum and green facilities, with a goal of sponsoring a regional showcase of best practices in campus sustainability in 2011.

PRESIDENTS' TRANSFER PROGRAM

Now in its third year, the CONNECT Presidents' Transfer Program continues to offer students pathways to college when not accepted to a CONNECT four-year institution. This year, CONNECT developed a post card for students nominated to the program, allowing their contact information to be forwarded to the community college(s) of their choice. Students who enrolled in the community colleges as Presidents Transfer Program nominees in Fall 2009 numbered 31 at Bristol Community College, 18 at Cape Cod Community College, and 43 at Massasoit Community College.

In addition to the Presidents Transfer Program, CONNECT works to facilitate transferability of credit and articulation of programs amongst the CONNECT schools by sponsoring regular meetings of the Transfer Coordinators at the six institutions. The Transfer Officers met throughout the year to discuss issues surrounding the Commonwealth's new MassTransfer program, to update and develop new articulation agreements, and to ensure sound information resources for students. This group also received a presentation by representatives of the CONNECT Math Group to discuss ways to enhance the transferability of math courses among the CONNECT schools.

PLYMOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP, RANDOLPH COLLEGE ACADEMY

As a way of easing the transition from high school to college coursework and promoting college enrollment, CONNECT works with area schools on innovative programs supporting college readiness. In Spring 2010, Massasoit Community College offered an undergraduate credit course in Speech Communication on-site in Plymouth for high school students and area adults. In the coming academic year (2010-11), the community colleges will explore adding more courses that will not only enable their own

students to take general education courses closer to home, but will also allow high school students to get a taste of college and earn college credits at discounted tuition rates while still in high school.

CONNECT similarly facilitated high school and college connections for Randolph Public Schools. Randolph High School is developing the "Randolph College Academy," which would allow Randolph students to earn credits toward an associate degree while fulfilling high school graduation requirements. The Randolph School Committee approved the program in May. CONNECT supported the formation of the program by bringing together representatives from Randolph Public Schools, Massasoit Community College, and Bridgewater State College in the early planning stages.

CONNECT WORKING GROUPS

CONNECT coordinates meetings of 18 standing groups of higher education leaders to promote collaborative projects and the sharing of resources and best practices:

- Chief Executive Officers
- Chief Academic Officers
- Chief Financial Officers
- Chief Information Officers
- Campus Liaisons
- Academic Support Directors (new)
- Admissions/Enrollment Managers
- Affirmative Action/Diversity Officers
- External Affairs/Workforce Development Directors (new)
- Grants Directors
- Human Resource Directors
- Institutional Research Officers (new)
- Library Directors
- Mathematics Group
- Public Affairs Directors
- Public Safety/Security Directors
- Sustainability Leaders
- Transfer Officers
- Writing Group