

CSCU Student Success Center Update

Reporting Period: September 5, 2014 – December 23, 2014

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Executive Director
CSCU Student Success Center



Student Success Center Year End Report

For the period of September 5, 2014 - December 23, 2014

Mission

Founded in Fall 2014, the CSCU SSC aims to foster a collaborative process in which faculty, staff, students, and administration work together to develop a culture of academic and personal success for community college students across the state of Connecticut. Consistent with the mission of our colleges, we aim to promote communities in which students are encouraged to succeed and excel as they work towards achieving their goals of degree and certificate completion.

Resources

The CSCU SSC received a competitive \$500,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation to initiate this work. In addition to supporting personnel to carry out the mission and goals of the CSCU SSC, the grant supports the convening of statewide faculty and staff meetings, student success summits, and professional mini grants to Connecticut's 12 community colleges. In addition to this funding, the system office and colleges have pledged significant in-kind resources to the project. CT joins CA, NJ, TX, MI, AR, OH, and MI as the states with Kresge Centers.

Presentations

Part of the initial rollout plan for the SSC involved presentations on the conceptual framework to various stakeholder groups within the CT system. The list below identifies presentations made for the reporting period by the executive director. A copy of the overview presentation is included at the end of this report.

Date	Group	Description
9/18/14	Deans of Student Affairs Council	Project overview meeting with the chief student affairs officers of the 12 CT community colleges.
10/3/14	System Retention Council	Project overview meeting with the system Retention Council, a stakeholder group intimately connected with the original grant application.
10/6/14	President Gray, Provost Gargano, and President/System CC Vice President Levinson	BOR senior leadership project overview meeting/presentation. Gretchen Schmidt, Jobs for the Future, Senior Policy Director, in attendance
10/6/14	Meeting with system presidents, academic deans, and deans of student affairs	Project overview meeting with system administrative leaders. Gretchen Schmidt, Jobs for the Future, Senior Policy Director, in attendance
10/6/14	System and campus directors	Project overview meeting with campus and BOR directors. Gretchen Schmidt, Jobs for the Future, Senior Policy Director, in attendance
10/22/14	CSCU Graduate Program Presentation	Asked to serve as the monthly guest speaker. Topic: Trends in Higher Education (State and National) and the Student Success Center
11/7/14	College Career Pathways Group	Project overview meeting with representatives from the State Department of Education, the campus coordinators of College Career Pathways, and lead for the BOR Early College Initiative.
11/17/14	Student Success Advisory Committee	Presentation with Gretchen Schmidt to the advisory board of the SSC.
11/20/14	Windsor Rotary Club	Asked to serve as the monthly guest speaker. Topic: Trends in Higher Education (State and National) and the Student Success Center

Meeting Participation

Part of the outreach and initiative awareness strategy for the SSC includes attendance and participation by the executive director in various stakeholder meetings. Attendance and engagement is a means to deepen awareness of system initiatives and opportunities for the SSC to serve as a mechanism to increase system coherence efforts. The list below identifies various meeting participation for the reporting period.

Date	Meeting	Description
Ongoing	System Academic Affairs Meeting	Regularly convened meeting of the system academic affairs leadership team. Asked to provide regular update on SSC activity.
9/5/14	STEM/CT Health and Life Sciences Meeting	Meeting at Norwalk Community College to discuss progress on the Helmsley and CT HLS Grant Initiatives.
9/15/14	Transform 2020 Town Hall Meeting	Attended the Transform 2020 (system strategic planning effort) Town Hall meeting at Manchester Community College.
9/18/14 10/10/14	Dean of Student Affairs Council	Participation in the monthly meeting of the system chief student affairs council.
9/18/14 12/18/14	BOR Meeting	Attendance at the monthly BOR meeting, the governance body of the CT State College and University system. The work of the SSC was highlighted as a system accolade during the December 18, 2014 presentation to the board by system President Gregory Gray.
10/2/14 12/5/14	BOR Academic and Student Affairs Committee	Attendance at the BOR monthly committee meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, one of the policy recommending bodies of the BOR.
10/3/14 11/7/14	Retention Council	Participation in the fall semester meetings of the Retention Council.
10/8/14	Education Advisory Board	Presentation by the EAB group on their student enrollment system.
10/15/14	College Supports Network Info Session	The College Supports Network aims to bring together community based organizations, Hartford Public Schools, and higher education in a collaborative effort to increase degree completion rate. Funded by the Lumina Foundation.
10/29/14	Transform 2020 Student Form	Attended the Transform 2020 Student Forum at Norwalk Community College
12/8/14	Ellucian Degree Works Presentation	The BOR is in the process of procuring and implementing the Degree Works system to support system community colleges degree audits and advising.
12/11/14	State of CT Legislative Appropriations and Budget Meeting	Presentation by BOR President Gregory Gray to the State of CT Appropriations and Higher Education Committee.
12/12/14	Student Clearinghouse Presentation	Attendance at the system office Banner Team presentation by Sue Leden, Student Clearing House, on the reverse transfer initiative.

Marketing

Significant effort and progress has been made marketing the Student Success Center. In addition to outreach presentations, presence has been established via a webpage, LinkedIn, and Twitter accounts. A full rollout of the webpage that includes a content management system, online article discussion forum, events calendar, stakeholder directory and meeting schedule, advisory board overview, Minority Male Initiative page, and contact information is in the final stages of development, anticipated release date January 2015. The SSC has worked closely with Andrew Morris, BOR web steward, on the development of the site. Select photos of outreach activity and the deck of the SSC outreach presentation are included at the end of this report

Establishment of Procedures and Presence in the System Office

The SSC has worked to establish a presence within the system office and is recognized as a one of the programs supported by the system office (others include – CT Health and Life Science Grant, TAP, CAMI, Early College Awareness, P20-Win). Purchasing, budget and finance reporting, HR procedures have been established and collaborative relationships have been developed with departments within the BOR.

Staff

The creation of a job description, along with the identification and hiring of an executive director (a Kresge grant requirement) was accomplished. Dr. Duncan Harris hired and started began in the role on September 5, 2014. Dr. Harris reports to Dr. David Levinson, President of Norwalk Community College and vice president of the BOR community colleges. Meg Niewinski, Sponsored Programs Finance Officer, has been serving as grant/finance administrator for the project. An intern, Lindsey Norton, was selected to provide support to the

project. Funding exists within the budget to hire a part time (17-20 hours/week) project coordinator/assistant. A position announcement will be posted January 2015.

Kresge Grant and Jobs for the Future Relationship

The SSC has met all of the stipulated requirements of the grant to date and has participated in all attendance required activities. The collaborative relationship that was already in place with JFF has been deepened through our SSC work. The executive director has participated in SSC executive director conference calls, meetings with the JFF Project Lead Gretchen Schmidt and the September SSC Summit meeting in Washington, DC.

System Professional Development

System Professional Development Day November 21, 2014, Middlesex Community College

The SSC was a co-sponsor of the fall Dean of Students Council Professional Development Day that occurred at Middlesex Community College on November 21, 2014. Based on event evaluations, the event was a success. The event served as a platform to launch into the guided pathways work that the SSC will facilitate for the system in 2015.

SSC Pathways Summit, February 13, 2015, Gateway Community College

A structured/guided pathways professional development summit, sponsored by the SSC, is scheduled for February 13, 2015 at Gateway Community College. The summit will build on the guided pathways concepts introduced during the fall System Professional Development Day at Middlesex Community College. Dr. Davis Jenkins, from the Community College Research Center at Columbia University's Teacher's College, Dr. Gretchen Schmidt, Jobs for the Future's Senior Policy Analyst, and Issac Rowlett, Public Agenda, will serve as facilitators/presenters at the event. Colleges are forming Pathways Teams of up to 10 individuals to participate in this event.

SSC Minority Male Initiative, March 6, 2015, Gateway Community College

A CSCU Minority Male Summit is planned for March 6 at Gateway Community College. The event will have both practitioner and student tracks. Event details are being finalized.

Advisory Board

The SSC Advisory Board comprised of a diverse set of leaders from across the state has been formed and conducted their first meeting on November 17, 2014. The creation of an advisory committee was one of the stipulations identified in the grant agreement. Two meeting dates are being finalized for the spring semester and two will be conducting fall 2015. The spring meetings will focus on strategic planning and plans for 2015-2016 year. The current membership of the advisory board is identifying below:

First	Last	Title	Institution/Company	City	Type
Doris	Arrington	Dean of Student Affairs	Capital Community College	Hartford	Community College
Barzee	Sarah	Chief Talent Officer	State Department of Education	Hartford	K-12
Patricia	Bouffard	Dean of Academic and Student Affairs	Northwestern CC	Winstead	Community College
Carlos	Figoura	Vice President, Talent Acquisition	Travelers	Hartford	Corporation
Gena	Glickman	President	Manchester Community College	Manchester	Community College
G. Duncan	Harris	Executive Director	CSCU Student Success Center	Hartford	System Office
Irene	Rios-Knauf	Dean of Academic Affairs	Naugatuck Community College	Waterbury	Community College
Margaret (Meg)	Leake	Director, Learning Center	Central CT State University	New Britain	CT State University

David	Levinson	President	Norwalk Community College	Norwalk	Community College
James	Lombella	President	Asnuntuck Community College	Enfield	Community College
Matthew	Long	Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs - Retention Committee Representative	Gateway Community College	New Haven	Community College
Hector	Rivera	Chief Operating Officer	Our Piece of the Pie	Hartford	CBO
Michael	Rooke	Dean of Academic Affairs	Tunxis Community College	Farmington	Community College
Judy	Wallace	Faculty Representative (FAC)	Middlesex CC	Middletown	Community College
Dudley	Williams	Director of Corporate Citizenship and Diversity	GE Asset Management	Stamford	Corporation

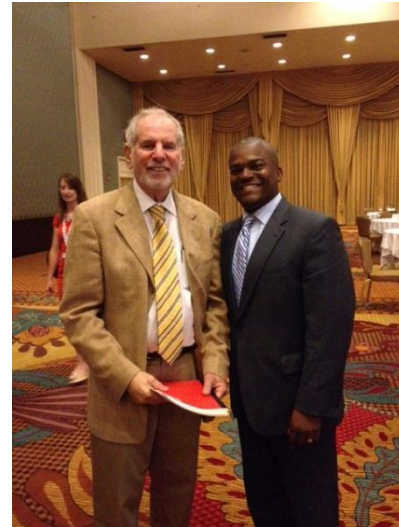
Spring 2015 Planned Activity

- An article on the SSC will be included in an upcoming edition of the CSCU magazine, Discuss
- The SSC webpage is being expanded to include an inventory of college and system initiatives, an online discussion forum, an event calendar, and library of articles and useful student success related websites.
- A Pathways Summit is scheduled for Friday February 13, 2015 at Gateway Community College.
- A Minority Male Symposium is scheduled for Friday March 6, 2015 at Gateway Community College.
- A statewide initiative map is in development. The initiative will be a useful tool in leveraging existing expertise in the system and providing clarity and potentially coherence amongst underway initiatives and programs.
- Two advisory board meetings will occur in the spring semester (February and April). The SSC strategic plan will be the focus of the February meeting.
- The executive director will provide an overview of the work of the center to the Board of Regents during their regularly scheduled meeting in January or February.

Selected SSC Photos



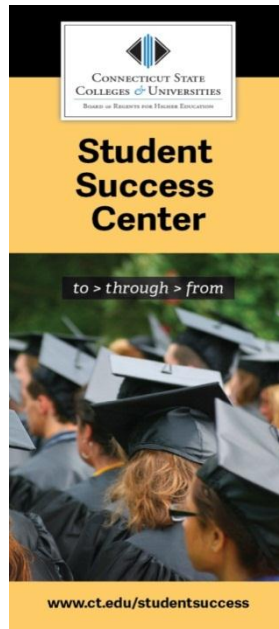
CT Student Success Center Advisory Board, November 2015



Dr. Usi Trisman and Dr. G. Duncan Harris at the Dallas Student Success Center Summit, September 2014



Dr. Michael Gaston, Vice President of Student Success and Enrollment, LaGuardia Community College and Dr. G. Duncan Harris at the CSCU Fall Student Success Summit



Student Success Center Marketing Banner
To>Through>From



Screen shot of the CT Student Success Center Webpage