Expanded Pathways for Access and Success: K-12 and Community College Students

Bridging the Gap Between K-12 and Community College

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Earlier this summer, Hobsons and American Association of School Administrators (AASA), in partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), hosted a convening of school district superintendents and community college presidents. The group discussed ways to address the issues of college access, readiness, persistence, and completion of a community college program or degree.

During the convening, attendees shared success stories, best practices, and innovative programs that are advancing effective practice in bridging K-12 and higher education.

Programs like the Gulf Coast PASS initiative in Texas are bringing together high schools and community colleges across the state to help increase college readiness among high school graduates, ease the transition between high school and community college, and increase student success in community college developmental courses.

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges is using support from the Kresge Foundation to partner with high schools to conduct academic “boot camps” to improve student performance in developmental education courses and move them through the courses more quickly.

And, the Missouri Innovation Campus is a progressive collaboration between the Lee’s Summit R-7 School District, Metropolitan Community College (MCC) and the
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University of Central Missouri (UCM) that allows students to take community college courses in high school, graduate with an associate's degree, and be eligible to complete a bachelor's degree from UCM in only two years.

Other initiatives in Texas, Washington, Arizona, New York, and Florida are also expanding pathways between K-12 and community college. For a deeper look at this work and other ways to move the needle to promote college access and success, download our convening report.

There's still a lot of work to be done, but we're proud to be a part of this conversation and to be fostering change in how K-12 districts work with their community college partners. We look forward to more progress in the near future.

28% of students fail to meet the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks
ACT, Inc.

22% of students don't receive a diploma after four years of high school
National Center for Education Statistics

20% of all first-year college students say they took remedial classes
National Center for Education Statistics

Only 20% of students placed in developmental courses will ever earn a postsecondary certificate or degree
Gulf Coast PASS, Houston A+ Challenge

31% First-time, full-time students that complete a 2-year degree

59% First-time, full-time students that complete a 5-year degree
National Center for Education Statistics

63% of job openings will require at least some college education by 2018
Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce