

Action Project

Title: Heartland GPS (Guided Path to Success)

Version: 3

Institution: Heartland Community College

Status: Completed

Submitted: 2013-11-04

Category: 9-Building Collaborative Relationships

Timeline

Planned project kickoff date: 2011-12-01

Target completion date: 2012-12-31

Actual completion date:

Project Detail

Project Goal

Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer

Heartland GPS seeks to provide a comprehensive spread of services on-site at area K-12 schools and will require shared data agreements with these area institutions. Heartland Community College is beginning with our K-12 partners since they are the primary entities involved in moving students into higher education. Other partnerships will be included in future GPS activities.

Career and interest inventories, learning and communication styles inventories, study skills inventories, and so forth will be embedded into a systemic process for all secondary school students. Similarly, COMPASS test preparatory work will be offered. All of this will be offered as an outreach service to K-12 schools along with financial aid workshops, ACT prep, etc.

Reasons For Project

Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities

The problem addressed by this Action Project is one of transition. There is increasing evidence of the existence of a gap between immediate access to and subsequent success within higher education. For example, of the 9th grade class of 2002 in Illinois, for every 100 students, 72 graduated from high school on time, 43 entered college immediately, and 20 attained a degree within 150% time. This action project seeks to improve the career and college readiness of students within the Heartland Community College district, to improve access to educational opportunity, to support teaching and learning excellence,

and to create capacity as well as process improvement in order to increase the likelihood of student success.

Organizational Areas Affected

List the organizational areas -- institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units -- most affected by or involved in this Action Project

This Action Project primarily affects the College's Instructional (Academic and Student Services) areas, but with cooperation from many other areas of the College. These include but are not limited to Information Technology, Marketing, and Institutional Effectiveness.

Key Organizational Process(es)

Name and describe briefly the key organizational process(es) that you expect this Action Project to change or improve

This Action Project directly impacts the College's approaches to creating, prioritizing, and building collaborative relationships with key partners among the educational organizations from which Heartland receives students (9P1). The GPS Action Project will also assist Heartland in better determining whether or not the College is meeting the needs of its many K-12 partners (9P6).

Furthermore, Heartland anticipates this Action Project will positively impact the College's approaches to communicating with its prospective students the required preparation and learning and development objectives for its courses and programs (1P6) as well as how the College builds and maintains relationships with its students (3P2).

Project Time Frame Rationale

Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion)

Heartland will need approximately twelve months to accomplish and report back on the attainment of the Action Project's three primary goals, which are:

- G1 - the Heartland GPS team will pilot the use of selected inventories in several area high schools in FY2012 and FY2013.
- G2 - the Heartland GPS Team will pilot widespread Compass testing in several area high schools in FY2012 and FY2013.
- G3 - the Heartland GPS Team will establish shared data agreements with several area high schools in FY2012 and FY2013.

The timeline for the Action Plan is December 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012.

Project Success Monitoring

Describe how you plan to monitor how successfully your efforts on this Action Project are progressing

All three Heartland GPS teams will be directed by Padriac Shinville, Dean of Enrollment Services, who will be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the Action Project's progress to the College's AQIP Coordinating Committee. The teams share responsibility in providing critical information support to Dean Shinville. They include:

Team 1: Recruiters, Advisors, Adjunct Faculty and High School Counselors

Team 2: Recruiters, Advisors, Testing Staff and High School Counselors

Team 3: Institutional Effectiveness staff and the Director of Student Records

Furthermore, Enrollment Services staff duties are being realigned so that each high school has a dedicated Heartland Recruiter and dedicated Heartland Advisor. This restructuring will help facilitate communication with each high school as well as progress reporting.

Project Outcome Measures

Describe the overall "outcome" measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals

(G1) By providing educational resources to high school juniors and seniors, we can help students design their own path to success. The fewer students who are undecided at college entry, the more likely success will occur in major choice and course selection.

- At least one inventory will be piloted in 60% of the high schools in Heartland's district by FY2013. One such pilot could be a Career Cruising portfolio plan that students could use for high school course selection and continue to use to plan the first two years of college coursework.

(G2) By providing widespread Compass testing we can inform individual students and inform high schools on the college readiness of their juniors and seniors. If the results indicate a need for developmental coursework, there is time during the junior or senior year to provide coursework that helps students become college ready before their freshman year in college.

- At least 40% of the high schools in Heartland's district will implement widespread Compass testing by FY2013.

(G3) By providing a shared data system, the college will be able to produce feedback reports to each high school based on their May graduating class.

- At least 60% of all high schools in Heartland's district will sign a contractual agreement to become a partner in the share data project.

