Interstate Collaboration: A Recipe for Success

The SREB Collaborative Counselor Training Initiative
College Planning

NASSP, 2007

- I have some or no information to make choices about courses to prepare for high school. (68%)
- I don’t know anything about the courses required for high school graduation. (25%)

Ad Council, 2006

- As a student from a low-income family, I relied on parents (26%), friends and siblings (24%) and on myself (15%) to provide information about college.
- Only 5% relied on school counselors.
Access to College Advisement

Met Life, 2004
- High School students report wanting more time with counselors for college planning

NACAC, 2006
- Counselors are well prepared by their graduate education to address students’ social–emotional needs
- But they are typically unprepared to provide college and career advisement

College Board, 2006
- Access to information about college and financial aid is a strong predictor of college enrollment
Financing College

Charles Schwab, 2007
- 70% of teenagers do not know how to pay for college

NCES, 2003
- Students and their families overestimate the cost of college

TICAS, 2009
- 64% of students who took out costly private loans had not yet exhausted more affordable federal loans first
Ratings of Counselors

Survey: adults ages 22–30 enrolled in postsecondary education

- 6 of 10 rated counselors “fair” to “poor” in career exploration
- 2/3 rated counselors “fair” to “poor” in college planning
  - 1/3 gave “poor” ratings
- Those gave poor ratings were less likely to get financial aid and more likely to delay college

Public Agenda (2010)
Counselor Preparation Programs

466 Graduate programs in school counseling (ASCA)

- 42 offer a course in college admission counseling (NACAC)
- One program is known to require it
Strategies for Counselors in College and Career Advising

- Professional development content customized for each state
- Online training materials for middle grades and high school counselors
- Secondary audiences
  - College admissions counselors
  - Financial aid administrators
  - Teachers as Advisors
  - Principals
Strategies for Counselors in College and Career Advising

- ASCA National Model
- Development by content experts
  - Middle grades and high school counselors
  - State agency representatives
  - College of Education faculty
  - Curriculum specialists
- Education Development Center (EDC)
Collaborative Counselor Training Initiative (CCTI)

- Instructor-led
- Three *stand-alone* modules
  - 1 Module = 4 sessions
  - 1 session = 1 week
  - CEU/PLU credit
- 12–14 week online course for academic credit (semester or quarter)
- Guide for optional face-to-face workshops or hybrid approach
Strategies for Counselors in College and Career Advising

- Learning goals
- Readings
- Discussion Forum
- Applied Activities
  - discussion rubrics
  - videos
  - action plans
  - research
- Builds Professional Portfolio
Strategies for Counselors in College and Career Advising

Module 1
- Introduction
- Advocacy/Creating a college-going culture
- Communicating with diverse populations

Module 2
- Career Planning
- Academic Planning
- College Choice

Module 3
- Financial Literacy
- Financial Aid
- Admissions Tests
- Application Process
Strategies for Counselors in College and Career Advising

Interactive Simulations

School Counselor Simulation
Click on a thumbnail to start a case study.
Counselor Training Collaborative

Overall Cost = ~ $350,000 +
Cost per state = ~ $40,000/state

Cohort I
- Alabama Department of Education
- Delaware Higher Education Commission
- University System of Georgia
- Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
- South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
- Tennessee Higher Education Commission
Counselor Training Collaborative

Cohort II

- Idaho State Board of Education
- Louisiana Board of Regents
- University of North Carolina General Administration
- Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
- Utah System of Higher Education
Customization

- Custom title for the course
- State-specific graphics/logos
- State graduation requirements and tests
- State-specific college financing information
  - scholarships, grants, financial aid, college savings programs, etc.
- All postsecondary institutions
- State college planning tools and resources
- State counseling organizations
External Evaluation Project

- 2011 online survey of more than 300 enrollees in 6 states
- Preliminary Findings:
  - Counselors find the modules useful
  - 81% would recommend the training to their colleagues
  - 72% of counselors report they are changing their practice as a result
External Evaluation Project

- Counselors need more time in their day to implement what they are learning
- Counselors need greater support from administrators for college advising
When asked what was the most valuable lesson they learned from the course, counselors indicated:

1. the importance of providing college-going guidance earlier than is often done and
2. the value of postsecondary education for all students.
External Evaluation Project

What was the most valuable lesson you learned from the course?

“College includes training in any type of postsecondary institution, and all students should be encouraged to obtain some type of college”

“...how important it is to help first generation students learn about postsecondary planning .... sometimes we take for granted that kids know how to apply to college or even have access to visit a college campus. This course was a real eye opener for me!”
Module IV: *College and Career Advising for the Middle Grades*

- Understand barriers that cause students to disengage and strategies to mitigate them
- Begin career awareness early
- Use career interests and personal aptitudes to foster academic engagement
- Help students develop an academic plan and make a smooth transition to high school
- Help students understand college choices and the college application process
Module Review

- http://moodle.etlo.org
- Logon ID = sreb
- Password = sreb
- Click on “Go Alliance Modules” under “Miscellaneous”