

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday March 12, 2010

DISCUSSION ITEM D: **Ivy Tech Community College Accelerated Associate Degree Program**

Staff Recommendation For discussion only.

Background In June 2009, the Commission for Higher Education voted to support a new initiative at Ivy Tech Community College, and funded by the Lumina Foundation for Education, designed to enable recent high school graduates to earn an Associate's Degree in less than one year. This four-year grant seeks to provide hundreds of students in Indianapolis and Ft. Wayne with this opportunity, and to pilot an innovative educational delivery system with aims toward a self-sustaining model in the future.

The program is well underway in both communities. This discussion item will provide the Commission with an overview of the successes and challenges to date, as well as a blueprint for future action.

Supporting Document *Ivy Tech Community College Accelerated Associate Degree Program: Overview of Project*



Accelerated Associate Degree Program

Overview of Project

The Accelerated Associate Degree Program (AADP) is a four-year pilot project funded by Lumina Foundation, Indiana Commission for Higher Education and Ivy Tech Community College and provides recent high school graduates the opportunity to earn an Associate's Degree in less than one year.

Program Objective

Using proven strategies, including peer support and learning communities, and condensing the time necessary to earn an Associate's Degree improves students' chances for successful completion, providing students with a credential with labor market payoff and the chance to transition seamlessly into a 4-year program at one of Indiana's public Baccalaureate institutions.

Target Audience

The project will target students from traditionally low-income, high-minority population and low college-entry high schools in Indianapolis and Ft. Wayne. These students will represent the "middle quartiles"—students who have the potential to do college-level work, but who are not engaged in a college-prep curriculum, and who are most at-risk of not completing college. Targeted students are capable of doing college-level work with the right interventions, but are not currently on the right pathway for college success. The purpose of the program is not to send already high-achieving students to college, but to intervene in the lives of students who may be underachieving due to lack of support at home, misconceptions about the cost of college, or boredom with high school. The AADP targets students from the following schools:

Indianapolis	Ft. Wayne
Arlington Community High School	Elmhurst High School
Arsenal Technical High School	North Side High School
Emmerich Manual High School	Northrop High School
George Washington Community School	South Side High School
Northwest High School	Snider High School
Thomas Carr Howe Community School	Wayne High School

Nomination and Selection Criteria

In return for the guarantee of a no-cost, accelerated Associate's degree, students are required to meet the following criteria:

- Core 40 diploma
- Complete Ivy Tech's COMPASS college-readiness assessment
- Minimum 2.5 GPA at time of graduation*
- Solid high school attendance record
- No major disciplinary issues
- Selection by Advisory Committee
- Sign a pledge sheet

Students will be nominated by teachers, administrators and counselors, and selected by an advisory panel.

Role of Student

- Complete application process
 - Apply to Ivy Tech Community College
 - Respond to essay questions
 - Participate in a personal interview if selected as a finalist
- Sign pledge sheet
- Seek remediation assistance as needed

Role of Parent/Guardian

- Sign pledge sheet
- Monitor child's progress
- Provide child with room and board
- Complete FAFSA by March 10, 2010

Role of High School

- Advertise and promote AADP to students and parents
- Nominate students for selection into the AADP
- Accommodate Compass assessment test
- Develop and counsel students in remediation opportunities deemed necessary for college readiness
 - Assist students and their families to understand and meet expectations of the program
- Explore and develop Dual Credit curriculum offerings

Role of College

- Partner with schools in promotion and selection process
- Facilitate Compass assessment testing at no cost to the schools
- Explore and develop Dual Credit curriculum offerings

Format

The first class of AADP students will begin in the Fall 2010 semester and complete a 60-credit hour program** by August 2011. During each 8-week learning module, students will enroll in 3 to 4 classes that will meet from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students will be placed in cohort groups and will stay together through the 40-week academic program. The cohort groups will provide ready-made peer support and learning communities.

Stipend

Participation in the AADP is essentially a full-time job for participating students; therefore, students will not be allowed to work on school days and discouraged from working on weekends. To facilitate the successful completion of this rigorous pilot project, students will be provided a stipend that is equivalent of working 10 hours per week to assist in covering transportation and food expense. In addition, the grant will cover each student's book and supply fees as well. Each participating school will receive a stipend to support enhanced counseling and remediation opportunities for participating students.

*Although important, cumulative GPA will not automatically disqualify students.

**Specific program offerings soon to be finalized at both Indianapolis and Fort Wayne Campuses.