

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING



Background

In 2010, NC State University, representing a broad cross-sector community partnership, was awarded a \$1.3 million, three-year 'Partnership for Postsecondary Success' Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant. The goal of the project, named the Raleigh Colleges and Community Collaborative (RCCC), is to double the number of low-income youth in Raleigh who achieve a postsecondary credential and living-wage employment by 2025. Data was collected from multiple education, governmental, non-profit, and for-profit organizations to assess the education pipeline as well as employment needs. Data-based decision making identified the critical areas needing to be changed. A new social compact was generated, and *The Raleigh Promise* was born:

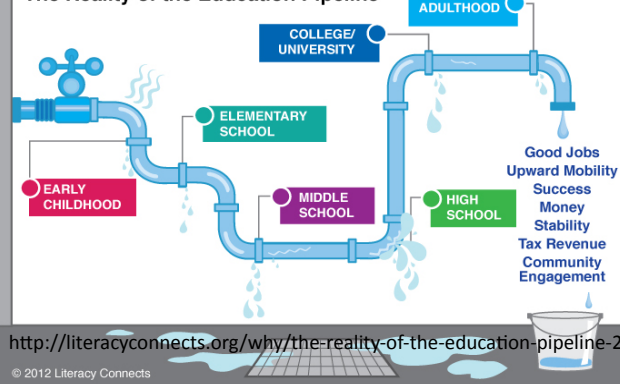


"As a community, we promise to work collectively to provide as much support as necessary to help ensure that low-income young adults in Raleigh achieve a postsecondary credential and living wage employment."



Through the work of twenty-seven non-profit organizations, six higher education institutions, the Wake county public school system, eight business organizations, one faith-based organization and City and County officials, the Raleigh Promise now consists of three distinct but related programs: the Raleigh Future Scholars; Raleigh College Centers; and the Raleigh Fellows.

The Reality of the Education Pipeline



Capacity Building: Grant Outcomes To Date

The *Raleigh Promise* is supported by three programs that were developed after extensive data sharing and analysis.



1) The Raleigh Future Scholars: This program identifies high school students with strong potential and offers activities, programs, and support including coaching, SAT/ACT prep, career development counseling, summer camp programs, internships, campus visits, and community and service learning opportunities. The first cohort of students was announced in Fall 2012.



2) The Raleigh Fellows: All six institutions of higher education have jointly developed this program to recognize and support enrolled college students. Supports and services will be tailored to each college or university, and can include service learning, learning communities, early alert systems, and career counseling.



3) The Raleigh College Centers: The goal is to have several centers conveniently located throughout Raleigh for students and their families to receive information, resources, and workshops. The information will be delivered in easy-to-understand format and focused on education leading towards a living wage. Currently, one center is operating, delivering workshops and information.

Research Projects

To date there are three ongoing research projects supporting, extending, or analyzing the work of the grant.

Research Supporting the Grant: This type of data collection and analysis has laid the foundation for the data-based decision making processes undertaken since the inception of the grant. For the first time, key organizations are sharing important and relevant data, which is organized and stored for easy access. Research continues to examine student access, attrition, community services usage and capability, and other important community variables and resources.

Research Extending the Grant: A new program, introduced in Fall 2012, extends the research-based decision making model into the classrooms of the collaborating colleges and universities as well as one Early College STEM high school. Teams of students, led by a faculty mentor, have begun the process of conducting 'advocacy research' into the issues and challenges facing many students. The teams will conduct empirical research, adhere to recognized standards of research rigor, and present their findings at a community celebration in early 2013.

Research Analyzing the Grant: A descriptive case study is being conducted to understand the internal (e.g., within the RCCC) and external (e.g., within the community) forces, factors, and characteristics that shaped the process and outcomes of the grant. Qualitative and quantitative data is being reviewed and analyzed. Data includes meeting minutes, documents, presentations, public materials, etc. Findings will be published in scholarly as well as practitioner journals.

Thank you to all of the Raleigh Community organizations and members who have made this work possible!



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