Best Practice Area:

Recruit and Retain Students from Arkansas High Schools

Arkansas’ education-to-the-workforce pipeline is in need of improvement because it does not prepare students to compete nationally and globally.  Many of the students who enter high school in Arkansas do not complete postsecondary education. Only 10% of ninth grade students who enter high school graduate from a two-year or four-year institution of higher learning. For the remaining 90%, the future is uncertain.  According to a 2010 report in Complete College America out of 100 9th graders in Arkansas:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **100** Start 9th Grade |  |
|  |  | 21 lost |
| **79** Graduate High School |  |
|  |  | 34 lost |
| **31** Enter 4-year school | **14** Enter 2-year school |  |
|  |  | 16 lost |
| **22** Return Sophomore Year | **7** Return Sophomore Year |  |
|  |  | 19 lost |
| **7** Graduate | **3** Graduate |  |

Working with the Arkansas Department of Education, develop and implement a communications and recruitment plan to better inform students from every Arkansas high school of the many opportunities provided them by higher education and workforce training institutions in Arkansas.  Ease the burden of the cost for higher education institutions by providing guidance information online and through social media and through other channels available such as counselors, city chambers of commerce, workforce training sights, etc.