MINUTES for approval

College Readiness

12/16/2015 2:00 PM | Meeting called to order by Dr. Barbara Jones, Chair

# In Attendance

Dr. Barbara Jones, Zachary Perrine, Zulma Toro, Steve Adkison, Gina Hogue, Mary Brentley, Robert Gunnels, Susan Harriman, Christopher Smith, Dr. Brett Powell, Ann Clemmer, and Angela Lasiter. Absent with apologies was Diana Arn. Guests were Sonja Wright-McMurray, Bill Stovall and Mike Leach.

# Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved from the November 23, 2015 meeting.

# Review and Approval of Agenda

The advisory committee on College Readiness reviewed the agenda for the 12/16/2015 meeting. One addition was made regarding an update on the ADHE website for this committee by Angela Lasiter. Agenda approved.

# High School College and Career Coaches

Ms. Sonja Wright-McMurray from Arkansas Career Education spoke to the committee regarding high school college and career coaches. The Arkansas Career Coach Program is a three component system, which includes College and Career Coaches, an Online College and Career Planning System (Kuder), and Enrichment Programs (ACT Academy, soft skills, career cluster camp, AR College Application campaign, etc.). These programs are designed to assist middle/high school students and adults prepare and plan for postsecondary education and/or training. Students are much more prepared for college and life who use a career coach. There are 45 College and Career Coaches based in 49 high schools through 18 Two-year colleges in 31 counties. Funds are not permanent – coming from ACE, and high schools to community colleges to pay for coaches and activities. Zachary Perrine added that he supervises the career coaches at Pulaski Tech and stated the program is robust and the people are amazing. Please direct questions to Ms. McMurray at 501.683.4432.

# Philanthropic Initiatives Related to College Readiness

Mr. Bill Stovall and Mr. Mike Leach spoke to the committee about grant initiatives to improve college readiness. These included Arkansas Guided Pathways, Math Pathways to Completion, Working Families Success Network Community College Expansion, Accelerating Opportunity, Accelerated Learning Program, Academy for College Excellence and Gateway to College. Also, the Career Pathways Initiatives and how Dr. Rosa runs the initiative/program was highlighted and complimented. (See attached handout for Philanthropic initiatives)

# Review of Best Practices or Resources

Continue sending in Best Practices or Resources to Angela at angela.lasiter@adhe.edu. Angela updated the committee that the ADHE website is almost complete so that all of these documents can be shared with everyone by Angela uploading them on the site. Angela will let everyone know as soon as this happens.

# Review of College and Career Readiness legislation

Discussion on the wording in the current legislation (A.C.A. § 6-15-441) for Arkansas College and Career Readiness Planning Program. Dr. Powell shared his goal that he would like to see as much done as possible without creating more legislation. Dr. Jones asked for everyone to review the legislation and provide any input.

# Other Discussions

* Dr. Powell shared with the committee that the Western States would like to expand their Passport schools program. (Goal is if a student has a “passport”, the student has completed all their general education requirements and can take those credits to any institution to be transferrable.)
* A need for common curriculum for designated programs to assure ready transferability.
* Common course numbering to assist in transfer of credits; this is readily accomplished through common numbers for ACT courses.
* Discussion regarding increased funding to expand and support secondary career centers.
* Non-traditional student college readiness: ABE, CPI, and reviews for placement exams.

# Follow Up Items

* Steve Adkison will send a Chronicle piece on readiness from other states to Angela so that it can be added to the Resources page on the website.
* ADE will request that Dr. Debbie Jones come to a meeting and update status and progress in the agency surrounding some similar goals.
* Steve Adkison asked “how do we institutionalize the pockets of innovation”?
* Angela and Ann updated the committee that during the Remediation Committee meeting, it was stated that they would like to have a meeting with College Readiness to discuss some crossover discussions.

# Next Meeting

Angela will send out some possible dates and times for the next meeting in the late January/early February timeframe.

Meeting adjourned.