



IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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To: Complete College America Momentum Pathways Institutional Teams

From: Randall Brumfield, Chief Academic Officer

cc: Matt Freeman, Executive Director
Linda Clark, President, Board of Education
Debbie Critchfield, Vice-President, Board of Education and Chair, Committee on
Instruction, Research, and Student Affairs
Dave Hill, Secretary, Board of Education
College and University Presidents

Date: January 24, 2019

Re: Complete College America Momentum Pathways

Background

Idaho became a Complete College America (CCA) Alliance State in 2010. It has since worked closely with CCA on a range of academic initiatives including transforming remediation, creating clear academic pathways, and promoting timely credential completion. Recently CCA has modified its strategies to also include a focus on first year student guidance and engagement and addressing adult learner needs through accelerated courses, year-round predictable schedules, and prior learning assessment opportunities.

With meaningful progress having been achieved through the implementation of CCI strategies on individual campuses, work still remains to fully deliver and scale CCA strategies across all eight institutions. In July 2018 CCA selected Idaho as a Momentum Pathways state. Due to the commitment exhibited by institutional leadership, the Governor's Higher Education Task Force, and recent legislative support for State Board of Education (Board) initiatives, Complete College America selected Idaho as one of two states in which to invest additional resources to help complete the work that has been undertaken with the aforementioned strategies.

The Momentum Pathways Project is designed to help states/consortia members and their postsecondary institutions scale a core set of evidence-based strategies proven to close equity gaps and generate significant gains in college completion rates. Individually, these strategies are CCA's well-known "Game Changers: 15 to Finish, Math Pathways, Corequisite Support, Momentum Year and Academic Maps with Proactive Advising. Recently it has included A Better Deal for Returning Adults, supporting adult learners in their effort to complete a postsecondary credential.

The overarching structure of Momentum Pathways represents a tested and guided approach to scaling these strategies with intentional sequencing and division of labor among faculty and staff. The Momentum Pathways model also includes built-in success checkpoints: annual opportunities to collect and report data proving that recent efforts are getting the intended results. These checkpoints intend to provide momentum for institution teams as they see the impact of their efforts within months, rather than waiting two to six years to determine whether graduation rates were affected.

Action

On October 22, 2018, Presidents, Chief Academic Officers, and other representatives from each institution, as well as local Board members and Board staff, convened in Boise for an In-State Leadership Meeting with Complete College America representatives. Problem statements, root causes, and potential solutions offered by the leadership group were compiled as they relate to the challenges faced by Idaho students seeking to complete a college degree. This feedback was collected in order to provide guiding principles for assessing current practices institutionally and statewide, while also serving as a foundation for the strategies to be developed and coordinated by the leadership team at each college and university.

Following this convening, leadership team members were designated by each Institutional Lead for CCA Momentum Pathways implementation. Teams represent a diverse range of faculty, administrators, and practitioners who serve in critical capacities necessary to facilitate integration of student success and completion strategies. Joined by CCA staff, leadership teams are scheduled to convene in 2019 at an Action Summit on January 29 and a Planning Academy on April 15-16. These events will provide an opportunity for peers and teams to identify existing resources and critical needs, followed by framing a path forward for implementation.

Objective

At its December 2018 meeting the Board designated CCA "Game Changer" strategies as a high priority for completion. The timeline adopted/approved by the Board for scale implementation is no later than Fall 2021. As such, institution teams are charged with leading these efforts on their respective campuses, while drawing from the technical support, project guidance, and content expertise provided by CCA to ensure fidelity of delivery.

Summary

Upon discharge of the aforementioned strategies across the state's system of higher education, Idaho's public colleges and universities will accomplish a postsecondary education experience that excels in its responsiveness to the needs of all levels and backgrounds of learners. Furthermore, implementation of the plan will address the plurality of student-centered Higher Education Task Force recommendations adopted by the Board, which encompasses a vision to improve undergraduate retention, progression, and completion.