

Collaborative Partner: Central Unified School District

Project #3: Central Unified K16 Collaborative

Pathway(s): Upskilling Masters for Dual Enrollment, Accounting, Single Subject Teachers, Engineering

Project Summary

Central Unified School District (CUSD) with the Collaborative partners will be executing their proposal (attached) to support work to expand pathways available at our existing and new high school to bridge labor market gaps in the prioritized industries: accounting and financial management, engineering, and education. In addition, we have committed to our Board of Trustees and community that we will develop an early college that promotes the advancement of typically underserved populations. While our timeline is aggressive, we believe the timing is right for the expansion of programs as outlined in this proposal.

Rationale

The Central Valley for many years has had a low impact regarding educational attainment of degrees. Central had 79 students successfully complete dual enrollment classes through partnerships with Fresno City College and Reedley Community College in the 2019-2020 school year.

Needs Being Met

Our work is to help break the cycle of poverty by recruiting and supporting traditionally underrepresented students to enroll and succeed in a pathway that can prepare them for employability in high-demand, living-wage jobs. High school counselors will work to balance the discrepancies between the percentages outlined in the previous table by reviewing course and pathway offerings with all demographic groups and those enrolled in non-traditional course offerings. It is important that dual enrollment figures mirror the overall demographics in our district to ensure equity of access and balance of those involved in dual enrollment possibilities and career pathways.

Timeline

Early College including Single Subject Teachers (BA/teacher credentials)

- Engage Early College Task Force to develop program design and present to Central Board of Trustees: by Nov 2020
- Academic counselors and career center teachers will market the programs to students through bulletins, social media, one-on-one and group interactions, with emphasis placed on recruiting underrepresented and non-traditional students.
- Teachers with Master's and/or the appropriate CTE credential have been identified.

- Appropriate training will be provided to staff in culturally relevant curricula and pedagogy as they relate to both high school and college courses.
- Central Pathways (BOLD = current or possible dual enrollment classes through partnership with SCCC)
- Evaluate and continue MOUs with SCCC
- Receive approval for course syllabi and curriculum for use in expansion courses: Jan 2021
- Recruit and provide access to higher education (Masters) / certification programs (FCSS) in areas needed to qualify for dual enrollment instruction: ongoing
- Identify and acquire classroom resources and equipment needed for Garza High School Pathways (school opens August 2021): Jan 2021- July 2021

Expansion of Accounting and Financial Management Pathway

- Accounting 1, Accounting 2, Applied Accounting (to be added)
- Intro to Business, Entrepreneurship, ROP Small Business or ROP Advertising and Marketing

Expansion of Engineering Pathway

- Engineering Technology: Intro to Technology, Digital 3D, ROP Robotics and Electronics
- Engineering Design: Engineering Drafting 1, Engineering Drafting 2, ROP Engineering and Product Design 6

Expansion of Education Pathway

Intro to Teaching, Contemporary Issues in Education: An English 11 Course for Future Educators (to be added), ROP Careers in Education (to be added)

Project Progress Report

In Central USD, we are currently involved in the SS Teacher, Accounting, Engineering, and MA areas. We have district representation at the respective collaboration meetings, curriculum planning meetings, as well as the umbrella K-16 steering committee meetings. In the 2021-2022 academic year, Central USD's one comprehensive high school will split into two schools and we are adding a third new high school. All of our high schools will be part of the K16 Collaborative in various forms. Central High School (currently Central High School-West Campus) will be a school of choice and we are excited to introduce an early college model there. A Careers in Education pathway for future teachers will be housed at CHS. Accounting will take place at either Central High School and/or Justin Garza High School. Engineering will take place at both Justin Garza High School and Central East High School. Three teachers from at least one of the high schools are in the MA programs through Fresno Pacific University and we are actively recruiting to augment that number.

Central Unified has district administrators attending each of the pathway task force and curriculum meetings and teachers in the pathways have been consulted in regard to necessary equipment to enhance and improve each area. We also have collaborated with other K-12 school districts in Fresno County to review best practices in dealing with the continued implementation of our dual enrollment courses. We have ongoing collaborative meetings with the dual enrollment coordinator and a counselor from Fresno City College and the CTE dual enrollment coordinators from FCSS.

As we move forward and beyond the scope of the grant, Central Unified is committed to the aforementioned pathways and increasing the equity of course offerings, as well as post-secondary exposure and opportunities for students.

Central USD secondary sites are currently in the registration phase for student schedules and classes for the 2021-2022 academic year. This is a challenging process and not business as usual due to boundary changes, having an open enrollment campus in the mix and working to staff all three high schools equitably. We will not have all the data needed to populate the columns below until later in the spring semester.

Current high school counselors have been trained in the specifics of course offerings and career pathways, specifically in relation to our dual enrollment classes and Career Technical Education. Last year, a survey was sent to all high school teachers to discover who had master's degrees and also to solicit interest in the possibility of teaching dual enrollment classes. Many were interested in pursuing teaching college level dual enrollment courses and we are actively recruiting those teachers as we move forward in this endeavor. As an aside, we have three teachers who joined the first MA cohort this past semester.

Counselors and teachers are actively recruiting students to be involved in the future teacher pathway and we will have enrollment numbers when student registration has been completed. With our early college model, we are embarking on creating wonderful opportunities for our students. We have a consistent group comprising high school counselors and district and site administration who meet and plan on a regular basis with our partners from Fresno City College. These meetings allow us to brainstorm and streamline topics such as graduation credits, transcripts, student placement, and parent/student communications.

In the past two years Central Unified has partnered with Dr. Chike Akua, one of the most sought after school district and college presenters, and Kobe Wilkerson to discuss equity, multiculturalism, culturally relevant materials, and instructional approaches. The response to this collaborative adventure has been extremely positive from our staff. Teachers, counselors, and administrators who attended the sessions gave high praise for Dr. Akua and Mr. Wilkerson;

many noting that they had transformed their way of thinking due to the content and interaction of the professional development sessions.