

Collaborative Partner: Clovis Unified School District - Accounting

Project #13c: Clovis Unified Business and Finance Pathway

Pathway(s): Accounting

Project Summary

Clovis Unified School District with the Collaborative partners will be executing their proposal (attached) to continue their strong established Business and Finance CTE Pathway. Courses in this pathway include Financial Literacy and a Business and Finance Internship through which students are trained as tellers in an on-campus full-service credit union. Clovis Unified also offers English 1A as a dual-enrolled course on all five campuses. This pathway could be strengthened by adding dual enrollment courses that serve as initial courses in an Accounting Degree and/or general education requirements for an associate degree. The scope of the K – 16 Collaborative is to support programs that better align secondary and post-secondary education, to reduce achievement gaps and to create a multigenerational culture of educational attainment. Through our dual enrollment partnership with community college partners and Fresno State, we will begin to address the large equity gaps of college access among underserved populations in the Central Valley.

Rationale: According to the Council for Economic Education, currently, California is one of only five states that do not include personal finance in their standards. With the rise of student loan debt, there is concern that student borrowers are not fully informed when making decisions about how much to borrow and from where. Financial education graduation requirements increase applications for aid, the likelihood of receiving a grant, and acceptance of federal loans, all low interest means of borrowing. At the same time, financial education decreases the likelihood of holding credit card balances, and the education reduces higher-cost private loan amounts for borrowers. For students from lower income families, financial education reduces their need to work while enrolled, which likely increases their probability of graduation.

According to the national research and action institute PolicyLink, its study “Breaking the Cycle”, “Highquality education from early childhood through college, along with strong community supports, lays the foundation for career success and financial stability. However, key disparities along this education continuum limit the ability of lower-income students and students of color to achieve financial security over the course of their lives.”

Aligning courses such as financial literacy and accounting with community college and California State college courses would help increase the opportunity for a successful adult life for

students as well as provide valuable dual enrollment credits. Accounting 4A, a basic accounting course offered at Fresno State, but also offered at Clovis Community College, is a required course for any student seeking a business degree. Finance 30, offered at Fresno State, fulfills a general education breadth requirement. If students were to take both courses as dual enrolled courses or through Unitrack, a program at California State University, Fresno that allows dual enrollment for high school students, in addition to English 1A and future dual-enrolled mathematics courses made possible through the work of the K – 16 Collaborative, Clovis Unified students would be well on their way to an associate degree. Adding articulation between Fresno State and high school investment clubs and providing outreach opportunities for high school students through the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program will strengthen the bridge from high school to college.

Project Progress Report

Since receiving notice that the CUSD Accounting proposal was affirmed by the K – 16 Collaborative, we have written the new Accounting course, received Clovis Unified Governing Board approval, and the course has been approved by the U-C Articulation as A – G approved. This course will be taught at Clovis West in the 2021 – 2022 school year.

Our Accounting/Finance instructor has collaborated with Accounting/Finance instructors at Fresno State to align the high school courses to the CSUF courses. Additionally, our Finance instructor has worked to gather the required documents to obtain Unitrack credit for students taking the Financial Literacy course in 2021 – 2022.

Participation in the Collaborative has yielded opportunities for our students such as the Accounting Bootcamp and other Collaborative offerings. We have partnered with Brandman University to offer Payroll Certification test preparation and testing for students in the Financial Services/Accounting pathway at Clovis West. The first cohort of students will begin the test prep course this summer.