

Collaborative Partner: FCSS - C2C Unique ID Creation & Data Sharing

Project #16: Cradle to Career Unique ID Project: intersegmental support of the Fresno K-16 Collaborative's data sharing key element

Pathway(s): Key Element: IT/Data

Project Summary

Cradle to Career/ Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS) with the Collaborative partners will be executing their proposal (attached) to support integrating data that will provide key insights such as: 1). Which students might benefit from or be interested in targeted dual enrollment pathways; 2). Which students started on a dual enrollment pathway and how did they fare in higher education; 3). What are key attributes in a student's high school experience

that predict success in a pathway that extends through college completion; 4). How many students completed a dual enrollment pathway in K-12 and continued in higher ed; 5). Are students provided access to courses and support that enhance equity or are there barriers to equity that necessitate a change?

The biggest technical barrier to connecting data across systems - K-12, higher education, health, social services, etc. - is the matching of person level data across systems. Based on some of the work occurring at the State level, it's possible that in several years there might be a common ID in both K-12 and higher education data systems to facilitate matching of data, but at this time, there are no concrete plans in the near future to do so. This means that research analysts in K-12 and higher education spend hours matching data before any research and/or analytics can take place.

Additionally, processes used for matching are often rudimentary in nature, matching only when names, addresses, etc. match precisely. The system needs a more robust approach that automates the matching process. The P16 Data Collaborative, comprised of analysts across K-12 and higher education is one such entity that would benefit from a more systematized approach to matching data.

Championed by Cradle-to-Career (C2C), the P16 Data Collaborative, funded by a two-year (2016-18) College Futures Foundation grant, was formed to increase the rate of bachelor's degree completion among

California student populations who are low-income and have had historically low college success rates through data sharing agreements between UC Merced, CSU Fresno, State Center

Community College District (SCCCD), and Fresno Unified School District. (Fresno Pacific University and University High School joined the collaborative in 2020.)

To achieve that goal, the collaborative adopted a student-centered strategy with the following three outcomes aimed at removing barriers to college success:

1. **Successful Transitions:** Institutions ensure student readiness and effective transitions from secondary school to college, and from community college to four-year colleges and universities;
2. **Aligned Institutions:** Inter-segmental partnership aligns leaders, resources and decision-making among school districts, colleges, and their partners to advance student progress toward bachelor's degrees; and
3. **Improved Policy & Practice:** Policymakers and practitioners address gaps between policies and practices at all levels affecting student success.

The six (6) essential goals of this endeavor are:

1. To increase the number of university and college eligible graduates at Fresno Unified;
2. To increase the number of Fresno Unified graduate enrollments into post-secondary education;
3. To increase the number of students that matriculate and are appropriately placed in courses leading to their successful transfer from SCCCDC to Fresno State and UC Merced;
4. To provide targeted counseling and academic support services for successful course completion at SCCCDC for Fresno Unified students that graduate A-G off-track and enroll at their colleges;
5. To increase student transfer rates from SCCCDC to post-secondary institutions; and
6. To increase the number of Fresno Unified graduates that complete a bachelor's degree.

Project Progress Report

The purpose of the Unique ID project is to facilitate the process of data sharing between K-12 and higher education so that we can understand more about dual enrollment - e.g., how many students are in X dual enrollment program? Once the student moved from high school to higher education, did their major relate to their dual enrollment program? What is the retention rate of dual enrollment students vs not?

We have selected and begun work with a vendor to develop the Unique ID generating software in December and are now in the product development phase. We have completed the testing of matching solutions (Dec 2020), the Development Kickoff (January 2021) and the Interface Prototyping (January 2021). Product Development is scheduled to run through April 2021. Some of the aspects of Product Development appear to be taking a little longer than expected,

but I still anticipate that we will test the system with two users/organizations in Summer 2021 and roll out to additional partners in Fall 2021 as planned.

On the heels of receiving the grant award letter on February 4th, we are just about to post the Data Analytics position and hope to move swiftly thru the FCSS hiring process. I hope to have

this person on board by April/May 2021. They will start with a broader data dashboard that shows the dual enrollment programs by district and then move to more student level analytics that tracks the journey of a dual enrollment student from high school to higher education.