

Bridging Opportunities
January 21, 2015
8:15-9:15, B136

Attendees: Brittany Budeski, GFC MSU; Teresa Rivenes, GFC MSU; Tammie Hickey, GFPS AE; Tom Moore, GFPS; Cristina Capriato, United Way; Brian Held, CMR; Erica Rominger, GFC MSU; Brad Barringer, GFH; Chad Getten, GFH; Camille Consolvo, GFC MSU; Kathy Van Tighem, GFH; Barb Holden, EMS; Kelley Aline, Job Corps; Christine Perkins, GFC MSU/GFPS; Bridgette Pence, GFC MSU/GFPS; Corri Smith, GFPS Indian Ed; Brenda Lowry, CMR; Drew Uecker, GFPS; Jamie McGraw, GFPS; Allen Heisler, SAF

College in a Day – Brittany Budeski:

- Thanks to everyone who participated, it was a successful event.
- Fewer in attendance in previous years.
 - They had 13 total schools in attendance, out of 30 invited.
 - 157 signed up, had about 50 no shows, most from our local school districts.
- They took the opportunity to talk to local and rural counselors about the event and got some good feedback.
 - Is the event still serving the purpose it was intended to?
 - The feedback they got was that “yes, the event was good and worthwhile.”
 - They thought the session topics were on target.
 - They suggested a new session covering transitioning to college, housing in particular, so they will check into doing that.
 - It was suggested they have it on a Tuesday and we will check into that.
- College in a Day has never reached capacity and some schools said they would bring more if allowed, so they are taking the limits off.
 - Some rural schools may bring their whole high school.
- Most had very good things to say, didn’t see or hear a single negative.
 - The students got a lot out of money management going into college and overall, felt better educated.

FAFSA Filing – Bridgette Pence and Christine Perkins:

- CMR had their first filing January 14th.
 - They had every senior from the government classes participate.
 - Those filing were in a lab.
 - RDI came in and did a presentation on financial literacy to the ones not filing.
 - 18 that were able to do a complete file, 51 got to the parent info section.
 - The rest had already filed their FAFSA, or didn’t even have a social security number to get started.
- Their next filing is February 13th.
 - They will hit the 2nd semester government students with the same format.
 - RDI will be there again.
- 10 at GFH completely filed and 40 got to the parents’ piece.
- The next filing event is February 5th.
- They were a bit disappointed in turnout, but the exposure to the website, along with getting them into the website, made it worth it.
- More will file when their parents get their tax information.

DC Welding/Construction Cohorts – Bridgette Pence and Christine Perkins (attachment):

- Starting to promote this to get the next group for 2015-2016. They have gone into classrooms.
- They don't have a big pool.
 - GFH, 22 are eligible for welding, and only 4 for construction, but some overlap with welding.
 - Most of the students they met with were interested.
- Info night, February 18th.
 - The timeline will be tight.
 - Students who need to take a COMPASS test will have a week to do that.
 - The next week they will conduct interviews
 - The following week students will know if they will be accepted.
- The worksheet, attached, gives costs, requirements, and information about the parent night.
- Christine is going into the classrooms this Friday.
 - 2 of the 4 at CMR students are eligible.
 - Most aren't a junior or have not yet taken Welding II.
- They want to be up front with the cost.
 - Toolkits and books are both expensive.
 - The program fees may also go up.
 - All the materials (i.e., steel, etc.) are included in the program fees.
 - They also want them to know they are still getting a great deal.
 - They are getting 30 college credits for \$2,200.
 - Our selling point is what it would cost them if it weren't dual credit.
- People want to help support students.
 - There is some scholarship money available and they all received an application.
 - We can't get people to apply. We had 6 scholarships last year and got 3 to apply.
 - Christine and Bridgette have worked diligently to get students to apply.
 - There was a GPA requirement.
 - Kids read the requirements and don't think they are eligible. They should apply anyway.
 - GFPS has a pool of money and kids apply based on need.
 - We have had some private donors, this year for construction.
- Are families able to afford the cost?
 - They can set up a payment plan which helps some. Some do struggle with the cost.
 - Having the cost up front will help and is the right way to do it.
 - The books are expensive.
 - The toolkit is theirs to use in their field.
- If the tuition were half of that, would it make a difference in the number of kids who are qualified applicants?
 - That wouldn't make a difference; it is the interest and enthusiasm of the individuals.
- Are we talking to 7th, 8th, 9th grade students about where they can go with this?
 - ADF and Loebro have gone into all the welding classes to talk to them.
 - They talked about sending something home with more generalized information to plan for the courses to make them eligible.
 - Department of Labor information was included in the letter.
 - It would be good to have testimony from graduates of this program who are in the workforce.
 - We could bring also someone in from construction.

- The construction teachers have some ideas for marketing. We need to better market the High School House programs.
 - Do a community wide promotion.
 - Have 8th grade IT students tour the high school house?
 - In February, the 8th grade tours will tour the high school classes.
 - It might help to do that if the students are saying they aren't aware of the programs.
- They need a four year plan that shows how the classes fit together.
 - It is discussed at middle school parent night.
 - It is intensive to get them through it.
 - There are a lot of things they can do, they are pretty involved, keeping them engaged to get where they need to be.
 - It's not as simple as signing up.
 - With many, graduation requirements need to be completed. Some things just can't be fit in.
 - Some of the kids work. Some have a 14 hour day every day.
 - We don't want to set kids up for failure.
- There is a maturity factor that's part of it too.
 - Reality hits at some point and they realize that they have missed out on a lot of opportunities.
 - That's why we do the 7th grade college tours.
 - We need to be relentless about planning what classes a student needs to pass now.
 - Those students come back a year after they graduate wishing they would have maximized their opportunities.
 - We need to change that, get better information out earlier, be relentless and think creatively.
- We tweak it every year to make improvements.
- We need to keep pushing to remove the financial barriers, and to locally create more scholarship opportunities.
 - Remove the financial barriers for kids who want to take these classes.
 - 15 kids could be helped with a \$30,000/year fund.
 - Tom thinks we can do that locally between the two foundations and the schools.
 - Loenbro and ADF - we should go to them about a scholarship fund. Maybe they would be willing to step up, specifically that group.
 - Between the two institutions, we could set up a fund.
- The people Tammie works with have grown up, and dealt with reality.
 - If we could get the Adult Ed students into a cohort, the pool of money is there.
 - The barrier is some of them wouldn't have their HiSET.
 - Adult Ed has 243 active students.
 - 144 need their HS equivalency.
 - 40-50% already have their GED, HiSET or HS diploma.
 - Why can't we look at something for that program?
 - Let's look at some options for that.
 - That group of people might be very productive.
 - Think outside the box.
 - They have talked about teaching the Adult Ed folks their pre-reqs.
 - The financial barrier is huge for them.
 - The maturity factor is better. They might want it more.

Round Table Discussion:

Tammie Hickey (attachment):

- Lots going on with Adult Ed.
- Brittany created a card for transitioning into college at GFC MSU that is used during advisement.
 - It provides a continuing conversation, it works well.
- They have new things this section.
 - “Credential Essentials” - speakers coming in twice a week.
 - First speaker was Kim in the dental department.
 - Marilyn from the business department.
 - She commented that it pays to know your audience.
 - She had assumed that all needed their HiSETs.
 - The business program is one students ask about.
 - Frankie Lyons spoke yesterday.
 - Kelly coming Friday.
 - Someone coming from the cosmetology school.
 - Karen from Rural Dynamics is coming Thursday afternoon for “Fun with Finance.”
 - They are doing NCRC preparation so they can test with Kelsey.
 - CNA course will run February 4-18th.
 - CDL class, informational meeting on January 27th.
 - They help them pass the written piece of the CDL.
 - ESL students toured the Job Service.
 - They are mixing their students together more.
 - They are taking advantage of the speakers and “Fun with Finance.”
 - Veronica and Tammie are presenting at the Rescue Mission.
 - They will open and have information at Project Homeless Connect, Jan. 24.
 - They will have people attending Business After Hours at GFC MSU on January 29th.

Christina Capriato:

- Graduation Matters, next session is February 19th in Heritage Hall.
 - They are discussing barriers and how to impact barriers amongst their peers.
 - They are taking it to a new level.
 - It will be from 8:30 am until around 2:00 pm.
 - They work with a wide age group.
- Congratulations on the lowest dropout rate to date!

Welding/Construction Cohort Information Night

Please join us on Wednesday, February 18th at 6:30pm in Heritage Hall at Great Falls College MSU to learn about the Welding and Construction Dual Credit Cohort program. This Information Night is mandatory for any student who is considering applying for the program, as important paperwork, deadlines, and program expectations will be discussed as well as a tour of the welding and construction facilities. If you and your student are unable to attend, you will need to meet with your high school's Career Coach to arrange a time to gather the information.

Great Falls Public Schools, in support of these programs, will guarantee a \$500 scholarship to each student accepted into either program. There is also the opportunity for each student to request additional scholarship money from the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation (scholarship application attached), and there are community scholarships available, as well. Please see estimated program expenses below:

Welding Dual Credit Cohort Estimated Expenses

Tuition:	\$1248
Program Fees:	\$700*
Books:	\$591**
Toolkit:	\$178
 Total:	 \$2717
District Scholarship:	<u>-\$500</u>
Remaining balance:	\$2217

Construction Dual Credit Cohort Estimated Expenses

Tuition:	\$1248
Program Fees:	\$400*
Books:	\$642**
Toolkit:	\$462
 Total:	 \$2752
District Scholarship:	<u>-\$500</u>
Remaining balance:	\$2252

*Program costs may increase for the 2015-2016 school year.

**These are estimated costs that reflect new books. Costs could be less if purchasing used or rented books.

It is important to note that without the dual enrollment discount and scholarship from the Great Falls Public School district, the annual program expense for either of these programs would be upwards of \$4,500 per year.

Expected Timeline for Application Process

February 18	Information Night
Week of Feb. 23 rd	COMPASS testing (required to prove math competency)
Week of March 2 nd	Candidate Interviews
March 10 th	Candidates are notified regarding acceptance
March 13 th	Deadline for enrollment paperwork, \$30 app fee, and \$70 deposit

Bridging Opportunities – January 21st, 2015

Our students right now:

Ages: 16 – 18 = 57
19 – 24 = 64
25 – 44 = 84
45 – 59 = 32
60 + = 6
Total = 243

HSE: 144 – 59% Post Secondary: 99 – 40%

To transition our students successfully and seamlessly to GFC MSU, Brittany Budeski has produced a card with step by step details for our students. We talk about and hand out this card right before our graduation ceremony, we use this in our advisement sessions with them as well as refer to it when they are ready for that step within their pathway plan.

New Features of our program this 6 week session include:

Credential Essentials – Speakers every Tuesday afternoon 12:30 – 1:30 and Friday mornings 10:30 -11:30

- Kim Woloszyn – Dental Department – Everyone received a tooth brush, information on the programs offered and a tour of the dental lab
- Marilyn Besich – Business Department – had a power point and talked about the Business Management and Entrepreneurship Program
- Frankie Lyons – Health Sciences – Visited with our group and took them on a tour of the simulated hospital downstairs
- We also have Kelly with Job Corps scheduled, a representative from the Cosmetology school and if anyone has other ideas or would like to talk to our group, please contact myself or Veronica.

Fun with Finance – Rural Dynamics is going through their Dollars and Sense program every Thursday afternoon from 12:30 – 1:30 – over the course of the 6 weeks clients will receive a certificate of completion if they have attended every session.

NCRC Preparation– Every Wednesday afternoon 1:30 – 2:30, students are working on the work keys curriculum to take NCRC certificate tests with Kelsey.

CNA Class – The next two-week session will run February 4th – 18th

CDL Class – This class will prepare clients for the written part of the test only – there is an information session January 27th at 6:00pm

- In conjunction with our Substitute Teacher & Teacher Aide Essentials Class, our clients toured the Head Start Facility right before Christmas break.
- Our ESOL students just took a tour of Job Service and Katya our ESOL instructor has been integrating some of her students to take advantage of our speakers and other special classes we are offering. Katya also supports our Adult Ed students along with her ESOL students with digital literacy Wednesday and Friday afternoons.
- Veronica and I are presenting at the Rescue Mission this Thursday evening to staff and residents.
- Our doors will be open during Project Homeless Connect – Veronica will be here
- Representatives from our program will also be attending Business After Hours here at the college