Partnerships with Higher Education to Increase Student Success

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Themes of Partnerships

Access
The ways in which educational institutions and policies ensure—or at least strive to ensure—that students have equal and equitable opportunities to take full advantage of their education.

Academics
Preparation to meet the academic expectations of college coursework

Financial
Increase financial aid for students with demonstrated need and reduce student loan debt
Why Partnerships Matter - Access

- College-going rates
  - Nationally, 66% of high school completers enroll in college
  - Since fall 2019, the TN college going rate has **dropped 9 percentage points**.
  - Over the past 10 years, the rate declined 5 percentage points overall.

- Only **52.8%** of TN high school graduates from the class of 2021 enrolled in college or technical college after they graduated—the lowest rate in the past 10 years.

- Equity disparities are amplified for Black and Latinx graduates experiencing an **11%** drop in enrollment since 2019

TN...we have a problem

Why Partnerships Matter - Academics

• Nationally, 40%-60% of students are required to take remedial courses before engaging in courses for graduation credit

• 46% of TN high school graduates needed remedial courses in Math
• 33% of TN high school graduates needed remedial courses in Reading

• Disproportionally affects students of color and low-income students

• Intersection of race and income results in correlation of lower performing high schools
  • Under performing feeder school system
  • Socio-economic depressed community
  • Lower college going rate
  • Less preparation for college
Why Partnerships Matter - Financial

• Under preparation is often a significant barrier to completion, because students tend to spend their first semesters in college completing remedial courses, many of which do not count towards graduation credit requirements; this is called remedial spiraling.

• Negative impact of remedial spiraling
  • Financial costs
    • Overspending on tuition
    • Early expiration of financial aid, due to attempted hour maximum
    • Poor grades diminish eligibility, due to GPA yet do not count towards graduation
  • Weakening academic confidence
Themes of Partnerships

Access
• College Advising
  • ADVISE TN
  • PEER Power

Academics
• Early/Middle College High Schools
• Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
• Dual Enrollment Programs
• Summer Bridge Programs

Financial
• University Direct Partnerships – UT Flagship Schools
ACCESS
Improving College-Going Rates
Office of P-16 Initiatives

Purpose
Every Tennessean should have the opportunity to pursue higher education. We create the resources and programs that transform college aspirations into reality.
Program Overview

• Advise TN will serve 10,000+ junior and senior students across Tennessee

• **30 college advisors**
  – Trained college access professionals focused on one thing: helping students enter and succeed in higher education
  – **1 advisor to approximately every 350 students**

• School partnership is key
  – Advise TN college advisors will be placed in partner high schools that have articulated their strong commitment to building a college-going culture
  – Schools will be selected through a competitive bid process
  – **Three-year commitment**, pending availability of funding

• Advisor services will be rooted in research and best practices sourced from Tennessee and around the nation
Theory of Change

Committed Partnership
- Partner high schools
- Advise TN

Individualized Advising
- Research-based interventions
- Data tracking

Increased Student Outcomes
- College-going culture
- Sustainability
• 2005 – 2011 GEAR UP TN Grant
  – **10.7 percentage point increase** in college-going rate
  – Some high schools increased college-going rates **over 20 percentage points**
• 2012 – 2019 GEAR UP TN Grant
  – Serves nearly 13,500 students per year
  – **FAFSA completion increase of nearly 20 percentage points**, one high school had more than 90% of seniors complete a FAFSA this year.
  – **5% increase** in college-going rates
Increasing Opportunity for America’s Students

1. Expand to more schools

2. Reduce Advisor-to-Student ratio
   - Consider employing current college students

3. Consider adding virtual advising model (College Advising Corps)
   - Advisers provide remote support to low- and moderate-income students.
   - Virtual Advisers use video chat, email, telephone calls, and text messages to help students prepare for college.

Opportunities for Impact

ADVISE TN
The “Memphis Model”, is a partnership between Peer Power, the University of Memphis and Shelby County Schools

Recruit high-performing college students known as Success Coaches to tutor public high school students in the classroom.

Encourage active learning, valuing education, and being personally accountable for their futures.

Goal to reduce the student-to-adult ratio from 1:30 to about 1:10.

This lower student-to-adult ratio improves the job satisfaction and performance for full-time teachers, leading to higher job satisfaction and retention of valuable teachers.
ACADEMICS

College Preparation & Success
Early/Middle College High Schools

- Small high schools affiliated with a local institution of higher education

- Equip students with personal and educational skills to be successful in college

- Possibility to earn up to 60 credits and an Associates Degree, great for TN Transfer Pathways

- Focus on acceleration rather than remediation, individualized support, and engaging instruction

- 90% graduation rate according to Jobs for the Future (80% national avg. and 81% MNPS avg.)

- Low-income students are 25 times more likely and Multicultural students are 29 times more likely to earn a Bachelor’s Degree

- Statistics suggest early integration of college work improves academic fortitude for rigorous courses and boosts self-efficacy
Early College High Schools in TN

• Tennessee Valley Early College (Cleveland State Community College)
• Chattanooga State Collegiate HS
• Early College HS at Nashville State Community College
• Jackson Central-Merry Early College HS (Jackson State Community College)
• Middle College HS at Christian Brothers University
• Hollis F. Price Middle College HS (LeMoyne-Owen College)
• University High School (University of Memphis)
Early College High Schools Best Practices

1. Be Strategic in Selecting Locations for ECHSs
   • ECHSs located on college campus report higher proficiency rates on state assessments, higher attendance rates, and greater persistence rates

2. Expand ECHSs Across the State and Districts

3. Increase Interaction Among HS and College Faculty
   • Alignment of coursework and opportunities for advanced learning

4. Intensive Academic and Summer Bridge Programs
   • Maintain academic momentum and student engagement
Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

The goal of many CBOs is to provide high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds with the necessary resources to be college eligible and college ready.
CBOs / Higher Ed Partnerships in TN

- Trio Programs
- Upward Bound
- Gear Up
- AVID
- Futuro (Middle TN)
- Centro Hispano De East TN
- RHiTA - Recruiting Hispanics to Achieve (Walters State CC)
- Latino Achievers Program (Middle TN)

- Project Grad Knoxville
- Peer Power (Memphis)
- Public Education Foundation (Chattanooga)
- Camp College (Chattanooga)
- Frayser Community Schools
- KIPP Nashville Collegiate HS
- KIPP Memphis Collegiate HS
Where to find TRIO Programs

- TRIO Footprint: [https://ope.ed.gov/programs/maped/storymaps/trio/](https://ope.ed.gov/programs/maped/storymaps/trio/)
- (search TS, UB, UBMS to see pre-college programs)
Where to find TRIO Programs in TN

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Where to find CBOs Programs

National Association for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC)

Directory of College Access & Success Programs: https://casp.nacacnet.org/
Where to find GEAR UP Programs

**MISSION**
GEAR UP TN aims to expand the college-going culture in Tennessee.

**GOALS**
1. Increase the academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education for GEAR UP students.
2. Increase the rates of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education for GEAR UP students.
3. Increase GEAR UP students’ and their families’ knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing.

**WHO DOES GEAR UP TN SERVE?**
- Students living primarily in high-poverty, low resourced areas of TN.
- Participating schools serve a student population with over 50% of students eligible for free & reduced-price lunch.
- Participating schools have a college-going rate that is below the state average when the program begins.
- GEAR UP TN supports 6,000 students annually.

GEAR UP Tennessee: [https://www.collegefortn.org/gear-up-tn/]
Dual Enrollment Programs

Coordinator Guide
DUAL ENROLLMENT FALL 2022
University of Memphis Dual Enrollment

• 1,952 students enrolled for Fall 2021
• 8,458 credit hours = student cost savings of over $1.4 million

• Dual Enrollment Student Retention Rates:
  • One-year retention rate: 88.6%
  • Six-year graduation rate from the University of Memphis: 55.5%

• Grant eligible students pay $0 out of pocket for all 10 courses at the UofM
Summer Bridge Programs
Camp College

PROGRAM DETAILS

• Camp College hosts 100 rising seniors from Chattanooga; eligibility criteria:
  • Be on track to graduate in 2023;
  • Have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher; and
  • Have financial need and/or be the first in your family to attend college.

• 3-day residential college planning retreat at Sewanee  The University of the South

• Sessions include:
  • scholarship essay writing
  • college searches
  • mini-college fair
  • opportunities to meet other students and preview campus life
  • Parents/guardians will be invited to attend a financial aid workshop

• Transportation, rooms, meals, and materials are all paid by PEF, Sewanee, and other generous sponsors.

• Students only pay a $25 non-refundable enrollment fee.
Camp College Performance statistics

The goal is to give rising seniors intensive support as they aim to become the first in their family to attend college.

- 100% application rate among participants to college
- 95% matriculate to a postsecondary school
- 98% receive some form of scholarship or aid
- 98% return for a second year of college
The Flagship Scholarship is offered to admitted freshmen who graduate from one of 38 designated Flagship high schools.

When combined with the HOPE Scholarship, this scholarship covers a student’s tuition and mandatory fees for up to eight (8) semesters.

https://onestop.utk.edu/scholarships/tri-star-scholarship-program
UT LEAD & UT LEAD Summer Institute (UTLSI)

• UTLSI comprised of 40 students from Flagship high schools

• The UTLSI experience begins with a 5-week academic summer program prior to the students’ first year at UT

• UTLSI students transition to UT LEAD program for first 2 years of college

• 81% Retention Rate for UTLSI participants
References and Resources

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