



LEARNING RENEWAL INITIATIVES FOR ENGAGING, RETAINING, AND SUPPORTING COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

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The images contained within this presentation are not my original images.

AGENDA



- Overview of Learning Renewal Initiative
- Academic Support Initiatives and Highlights
- Social Emotional Support Initiatives and Highlights
- Direct Student Aid
- Benefits, Lessons, and Resources
- Questions and Answers

LEARNING RENEWAL BEGINNINGS

- Recognizing the significant impact COVID-19 had on students and educators
- *P-20 Council Learning Renewal Guide*
- GEER II Funding
- 39 community college systems participating in Learning Renewal efforts
- Supporting students' academic and social emotional needs

PURPOSE OF THE INITIATIVE

- Address learning disruption, social emotional impact, and educational inequities
- Provide support for:
 - At risk students
 - First generation college students
 - Enrollment drop off
- Build a better future for students, educators, and communities

WHOLE STUDENT AND EQUITY APPROACH



- 53.8% / 46.2% split in fund use
- Latitude with use of funds
- Direct student aid
- Equity focused
- Student-centric
- Adaptive and responsive to the needs of students

USING OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT FUNDS

- Support enrollment, retention, and re-engagement initiatives
- Enhance accessibility of academic advising and counseling resources
- Evaluate and improve hybrid/remote learning models
- Improve quality of learning
- 10% Max - Direct Student Aid
- 20% Max – Implement EO 2021-20



ACADEMIC SUPPORT INITIATIVES



- Summer bridge programs
- Bridge to careers programs
- 1st year experiences
- Increased/alternative tutoring programs
- Increased academic advising
- Peer mentorship
- Technology assistance
- Hy-flex equipment
- Professional development

INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- **IL Valley:** Bridge to careers program in AE
- **Joliet Junior College** –Laptop loan program
- **McHenry:** Expanded learning center includes bilingual support in 47 languages & 24/7 tutoring.
- **Multiple Colleges:** Equipment and professional development

USING SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FUNDS



- Develop/enhance partnerships with community organizations
- Enhance the accessibility of behavioral counseling
- Invest mental health and wellness infrastructure
- Structured engagement and enhanced communication
- 10% Max - Direct Student Aid
- 20% Max – Implement EO 2021-20

MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

- More than half of colleges expanded counseling
- Varying modalities of free counseling
 - Virtual
 - Community partners
 - College counselors
- Mental health educational materials
- Social emotional peer support/peer counseling

OTHER SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS

- Case management
- Student Success coaches
- Wellness fairs
- Self-care events and materials
- DEI Events
- Student engagement events
- Student outreach



INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Harper College:** Buddy System
- **Heartland Community College:** Therapy dogs
- **John Wood College:** Added “Recharging Room”
- **Multiple Colleges:** Added virtual counseling and expanded counseling
- **Multiple Colleges:** Hosted DEI, SES, and mental health events

DIRECT STUDENT AID

- About 45% of colleges provided direct student aid
- Up to 10% of academic support funds eligible for direct student aid
 - Tuition balances
 - Textbooks
- Up to 10% of social emotional funds eligible for direct student aid
 - Living expenses
 - Childcare
 - Food services

STUDENT BENEFITS OF LEARNING RENEWAL EFFORTS

- Increased services and access
- Normalization of mental health care
 - More meaningful learning

“My Success Coach is very helpful to me. She has managed to give me all the information I need. She sends out emails and reaches out which makes me feel welcome.”

“I’m so glad I can access counseling without my parents knowing”

“I am able to express feelings and work through things I’ve never told anyone before.”

BEYOND LEARNING RENEWAL

- **Black Hawk's** Learning Renewal COVID-19 case manager and College 4 Kids
- **Joliet's** laptop borrowing highlighted needs of older students, ages 25 and older
- **Carl Sandburg's** OWL equipment improved interpretation services.
- **Multiple Colleges** improved ability to navigate tensions

1ST YEAR LESSONS

- Be flexible and creative
- Learn from others and collaborate
- Listen to students
- Resiliency and creativity of community college staff
- Strong need for counseling and other mental health support
- Need for sustainability



WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

- **Immediate Successes**
 - Attendance at events
 - Student engagement
 - Repeat usage
 - Student satisfaction responses
 - *Are the immediate needs of students being met?*
- **Long-term Successes**
 - Improved infrastructures
 - Enhanced community relationships
 - Normalize the focus on mental health and wellness
 - Increase the profile of services on campus
 - Close equity gaps

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR COLLEGES



- Work with ICSPS
- Regular professional development events
- Convenings
- Resource Hub
- Listserv
- E-newsletter

UPCOMING LEARNING RENEWAL EVENTS

- **November:** Part 1 of Special 4-Part Trauma Series: Impact of Trauma
- **December:** Part 2 of 4-Part Trauma Series: Culture and Trauma
- **December:** Part 3 of 4-Part Trauma Series: Vicarious Trauma
- **January:** Part 4 of 4-Part Trauma Series: Trauma Informed Supervision
- **January:** Ways to Engage Students
- **February:** Digital Literacy and Digital Equity
- **March:** Food Insecurity and Homeless Support
- **April:** Cultural Competency –DEIA
- **May:** Visions for Innovation
- **June:** Peer Mentoring Programs
- **January and April:** *Quarterly Reflections – Sharing Challenges and Successes:*
- TBD: HyFlex Practices – Implementing Innovation
- TBD: Special PD Event: Supporting Foster Care Youth in the College Setting – Postsecondary Pathways for Former Foster Care Youth

QUESTIONS & REGISTER FOR THE TRAUMA SERIES



Thank you for your participation.

Contact Information

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