

A photograph of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, viewed from a low angle looking across the water towards the bridge's towers. The bridge is a suspension bridge with two main towers and numerous vertical hangers. The water is a dark, muted blue-grey, and the sky is a hazy, overcast grey. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

Our View from the Bridge

Helping Students Reach New Horizons Through Pre-College
Programming



Julie Howar,
Arnitria Shaw,
Loretta Oliver

Illinois Central College

How we started...

Approached by
President Spring
2021

Used Foundation
funds to support
development of
program

Planning began;
marketed to high
schools

First cohorts
Summer 2021



Smart Start Goals vs. Reality



Focus on Math, Writing, and College Readiness



Offer opportunities at both campuses



All-Day sessions with access to college resources



Plans for 200 students total

East Peoria Cohort

- 6 students: 5 men, 1 woman, 1 man of color

Peoria Cohort

- 6 students: 5 men, 1 woman, 1 man of color

Next Phase. .



Spring 2022-Applied for ICCB Grant for Pre-College Programs



Awarded \$25,000 to develop and implement programs



Second Iteration of Smart Start Summer 2022



Re-Start focuses on students who have been out of high school 3+ years OR who stopped out of college

Adjusted Curriculum & Approach

- ❑ In addition to Math, Writing, and College Readiness, Re-Start added a focus on Digital and Computer Literacy
- ❑ Research suggests lower levels of user confidence
- ❑ Also wanted to address changes in college LMS for those who were returning
- ❑ Greater focus on self-efficacy with use of college resources instead of increased placement scores



Re-Start Goals vs. Reality

Goal: Serving 50 students with 25 in each cohort

Goal: Offered cohort at each campus

Goal: Two evenings each week (alternating nights)

Actual: Six students in one cohort

Actual: One campus

Actual: Two evenings each week



Outcomes

- 8 registered but only 6 attended
- Students aged 22-31
 - 100 % female
 - 4 African American, 1 Hispanic, 1 White
- Students wanted more choice in programming
- Work vs. School
- Attendance was poor

What Did We Learn?

- Flexible scheduling is needed
- Credit or noncredit?
- Meaningful student incentives are needed
- Engaging high schools needs to be carefully planned
- Whole campus initiative
- Scheduling instructors was a challenge



Contact Us

Lonetta.Oliver@icc.edu

Julie.Howar@icc.edu