

OPAS Succeed Strategy Workshop #1
February 22, 2007

Convened at 3:30 via telephone bridge.

Attendees: Jo Oshiro (OPAS/OUS), Eda Davis-Butts (SMILE), Kathryn Schwartz (SAOF), Mary Bunn (ODE), Don Kirkwood (N Salem HS).

Italics indicate information and activity since the meeting.

Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions – why are you here? The mandate formulated for this group at the fall OPAS Workshop is to “increase the enrollment and successful completion of STEM courses by underrepresented populations.”
 - Kathryn Schwartz, Software Association of Oregon Foundation – The OPAS matchmaker put her here.
 - Don Kirkwood, N Salem HS Teacher of math, English, and Computer Science – Because of a very diverse population at NSalem HS, he feels it is very important and believes strongly in ethnic and gender diversity. He wants to do something practical about the problem.
 - Mary Bunn, Oregon Department of Education –
 - Has been working for a number of years with Perkins funds, a piece of which is focused on information training for students who are going into careers non-traditional by gender;
 - works with civil rights reviews of Perkins programs at community colleges and high schools, looking for systemic discrimination – gender, ELL, minority, disability;
 - Don Kirkwood told her she should be here.
 - Eda, Director, SMILE at OSU – her everyday work is surrounded by the factors that feed into the limited diversity within STEM. Because of the passion that she has for the student populations that she serves, it is not enough for SMILE to continue its work in isolation. She wants to continue transforming the system.
 - Jo, OPAS Initiative at OUS – enjoys making the system actually do something, making connections between people, increasing the efficiency of what we do.
- Resources
 - New abstract for the White Paper “Fostering STEM Diversity
 - Think about both in-school and out-of-school opportunities to work to try to increase enrollment and completion.
- Recommendations
 - The focal strategy from the workshop – “Increase the enrollment and successful completion of STEM courses by underrepresented populations” was endorsed by the workgroup.
 - Great link with Motivate Workgroup
 - Kathryn and Jo on the Motivate Workgroup

- SueAnn Bottoms from SMILE on Motivate (*she has resigned in favor of Ryan Collay of SMILE, whose daily work is more closely aligned with this workgroup.*)
 - (Jo) Put Eda on the listserv and roster as an Interested Observer (*done*)
 - Also link with Prepare
 - (Jo) Put Eda on the listserv and roster as Interested Observer (*done*)
 - **(All)** Think about connections beyond the OPAS Initiative
 - Look at Implementation recommendations from P 4-5 of the workshop final report.
 - What are the opportunities to connect the resources to the people who need them?
 - Identify the potential recipients
 - Identify the potential resources –
 - Mary Bunn visited Don Domes – he has identified some factors instrumental in his success and his students’ success. Hilhi 30% Latino; 46% of those are ELL.
 - Increase time of ELL Aide – 1.5 hrs/day
 - Problem with sustaining funding
 - Personal recruiting
 - Family time/babysitting issues
 - NBA (No Boys Allowed) at North Salem in a couple of Saturdays
 - Needs \$2-3K
 - (Jo) Ask Morgan if she is interested in Don’s program
 - Look for opportunities to replicate working programs
 - Identify potential funding –
 - Many industries have their own education initiatives, and their own rules/constraints on the distribution of funds
 - Think about local resources, regional resources
 - How to get teachers to buy in and say this is worth the effort? Who will carry the load when this crop of teachers retires?
 - Preservice teachers the biggest bang for the buck?
 - Build the capacity of administrators as well?
 - Community support for these efforts as well?
 - Need to build capacity and buy-in among these three.
 - OACTE asked for an NBA presentation, taking some girls there in April.
 - Take a look at where people gather
 - COSA (annual conference in Seaside)
 - Send Bruce?
 - Send SAOF? Part of a grant she has to reach 20 principals for SuperQuest (send e-intro to Sean Gallagher)
 - What’s in it for them? Esp: re: scores
 - OACTE in April

- Closing the Achievement Gap conference
 - Donna Bolt – coordinating.
 - Sessions already scheduled/requested? Deadline for proposals March 15
 - Mary to send info
 - OCSTA –
 - SIGCSE of ACM coming to Portland in 2008
 - OSTA – pull in “traditional” science teachers
 - Second Friday of October in-service day – many professional teaching organizations have meetings
 - Shopping the white paper around
- Roadshow of best practices – a set of presentation materials that can quickly be adapted to different target audiences, venues, formats, and presenters to help us maximize exposure of our message while minimizing overhead.
 - Bruce has done some presentation of the OPAS Initiative as a whole, not down to the practical, implementable level we’d like to show.
 - How do we personalize it?
 - Talking heads are only a starting point - better to have a roster of example programs, demos – even bring additional presenters off the roster.
 - If we have students, must have transportation costs for kids; also need a pot of money for subs for teachers and transportation costs at a minimum.
 - *Cost guidelines research: OUS lodging per diem is \$103 per night, \$45 per day for meals, mileage is \$0.485.*
 - Not just the white paper
 - Broadbased presentation about STEM that can be customized for the audience and circumstances easily
 - Eda volunteers to start a draft presentation.
- HS Graduation Changes
 - Linking our work to these to strengthen the case – connect to Prepare
 - Mary sending a 2 pager - http://opas.ous.edu/Committees/Resources/Publications/ODE_Diploma_Requirements_2-pager.pdf
 - Jo to send out the 2 docs that Tom sent, if different than Mary’s
 - One is the same as Mary’s
 - The other makes more clear the intent of changing the high school graduation requirements, and explicitly mentions the applied science option - http://opas.ous.edu/Committees/Resources/NonOPAS_Working_Papers/ODE_DRAFT_2007feb15decisionpaper.pdf
 - May be credit by proficiency

- Disconnect between HS graduation requirements and OUS admission requirements – esp re: foreign language for bilingual students – this is a big barrier for many Latino students.
 - (Jo) Call Michelle Sandlin and get more info on how to deal with this problem. *(At all OUS schools, students may test out of the foreign language requirement during orientation if they meet all other admissions requirements, personal communication with Michelle, Director of Admissions at OSU.)*
- UMSAAT (Underrepresented and Minority Student Achievement Advisory Team) group by Susan Castillo – reasonable target for a presentation. Jennifer Williamson facilitates; now in the process of rebuilding. Eda can let her know we'd be interested in making a presentation. She's transitioning to the professional team – first meeting March 5.
- Priorities – Let's not settle on priorities yet. Wait until we have a better chance to process and discuss the implications of the new graduation requirements.
- Action Items
 - Eda – Early draft powerpoint presentation and handouts by March 15 (*distributed via email and posted on the workgroup webpage March 14*).
 - All – read the white paper; corrections to Jo by March 1; Eda to approve by March 9.
 - All – if we do a separate event, what would it look like? Where? How? Audience? Context for bringing them together?
 - All – which of the conference venues we know about, which are the best fit?
 - *In the Steering Committee Meeting on March 13, Tom Thompson of ODE offered to come up with the start of a calendar of events with overlapping interests to OPAS -*
http://opas.ous.edu//Workgroups2007/Professional_org_events_031507.xls
 - Kathryn: What are specific demographic or features of the event that makes sense as a place for us to try to present? Eda responds:
 - Look for conversations about achievement gap
 - STEM diversity conversations
 - Diversifying higher education
 - Building vision and motivation for college
 - STEM career awareness
 - Administrators
 - Teachers
 - Geographical preference?
- **Next Meeting – Thursday March 22 3:30 – 5:00 via phone bridge; The SMILE Conference Room in Corvallis and the Industry Affairs Conference Room in Beaverton will be open.**

Ended at 4:58