**MEETING NOTES**

**Student Success Committee**

**Organizational Meeting**

**July 15, 2011**

Present: Dennis Bland, Marilyn Moran-Townsend, Ken Sendelweck

Jason Bearce, Catisha Coates, Sara Hess, Tatum Miller (staff)

1. **Welcome & Introduction**

Introduction of new staff members for Learn More Indiana: Sara Hess (Public Relations & Policy Advocacy Manager) and Tatum Miller (Operations Manager)

1. **Draft a Charge for the Committee**
2. The SSC should collaborate with partners.
3. Student success can be defined as on-time and without excessive debt.
4. The SSC should develop both policy and practice initiatives.
5. We can have a charge and a focus. The charge shouldn’t be too lengthy.
6. The final version will be:

*“The Student Success Committee will develop policy and practice initiatives to aid Hoosier postsecondary students in graduating on-time and without excessive debt.”*

1. **Overview of Current Learn More Indiana Student Success Efforts**

Jason Bearce presented Learn More Indiana’s current efforts. All efforts are geared around three concepts:

1. Plan: What do I want to be? (Careers, education needed, etc.)
2. Prepare: Educational content as well as “soft skills” like study skills.
3. Pay: The financial piece.

These three concepts are relevant for all of LMI’s audiences. LMI also has three campaigns annually:

1. KnowHow2GO: we are reframing this to focus on “preparing” and held in the summer
2. College GO! Week: focused on “planning” and held in the fall (this year September 26-30)
3. Cash for College: focused on “paying” and held in the winter/spring. Includes FAFSA Friday and College Goal Sunday

Additionally there are 17 county coalitions with 20 more starting this year. LMI determined that about 20 per year is an achievable goal.

Also, LMI partners with local agencies (YMCA, for example) and specific high schools to provide college mentoring. This is very important work and we hope to achieve scalable results.

*Reaching Higher 2.0*: This is a working document but it will be able to help frame our thoughts in the future.

1. **Priority Focus Areas & Objectives**

We need to know how to measure what we’re doing. Initial discussion revealed:

1. Should the standard be graduation or success? Consensus is success.
2. There are conscious and subconscious underpinnings: “I should be thinking about succeeding.” Encourage students to start with the end in mind.
3. We need to consider the quality of education as well, which *Reaching Higher 2.0* is all about.
4. There is a gap between the degrees produced and the workforce needs.
5. Colleges don’t define success as graduating 100% of their students. To them success is just increasing the 6-year graduation rate. We need to push them to do more, to do paradigm-shifting.
6. We need to focus on getting jobs, not just getting degrees.
7. *Reaching Higher 2.0* misses the “building community will” section.

Ideas for priority focus areas:

1. Education of community (financial challenges, etc.)
2. Identify the barriers to higher ed
	1. We have much more data on this now
3. 15 to finish: it takes 15 credits per semester to graduate on time
4. Financial
5. Preparation: people don’t know they don’t know how to get to college
	1. K-12 preparation
6. Advisors to help us as we take action
7. Simplicity of what courses students really need to take
8. Our constituents: anyone we affect
	1. Colleges, universities
	2. Citizens
	3. Those who want to access higher education and current students
	4. K-12

The three identified as key:

1. Student preparation
2. Financial literacy
3. College literacy (“college knowledge”)

Also, define success for colleges and do paradigm-shifting.

1. **Next Steps**
2. Receive and approve a reworked charge from staff (see above)
3. Create a first year workplan
4. Hold meetings Thursdays before Commission meetings