



Camden City College Access Network

Nyeema Watson, Ph.D

Associate Chancellor for Civic Engagement

PHENND K-16 Meeting

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Camden and its Schools

- Challenged and youthful city
 - 44% age 24 and younger (US Census)
- In 2013, of the 75 most distressed schools in New Jersey, 23 were in Camden, with just 1% of state population
- In 2013 Governor Christie took full control over the schools
 - Advisory board, state appointed superintendent, creation of Renaissance schools
- Among seniors, just 18% reached proficiency in mathematics last year; districts with comparable demographics had 48% proficiency
- Graduation rate increased to 64% in 2015 from 41% in 2012

Office of Civic Engagement K-12 Initiatives

- Goals
 - To develop partnerships and strategies that help achieve better outcomes for students, families and Camden communities.
 - To increase academic achievement and create pipeline to higher education
- Initiatives
 - College access
 - Rutgers Future Scholars
 - Hill Family Center for College Access
 - Camden College Access Network
 - University-Assisted Community Schools
 - Rutgers North Camden Schools Partnership

Rutgers Future Scholars

- 1000 Scholars university-wide
- 250 Scholars grades 8-12 in Camden
- Academic pipeline to Rutgers University
- Year round programming
- Tutoring/mentoring, academic enrichment, SAT classes, college credit courses
- 4-year tuition scholarship to Rutgers University
- 100 Camden Scholars in college

The Hill Family Center for College Access

- Launched in 2011 for “Strivers”
- Services
 - Post-secondary advising
 - College pathway sessions
 - Academic Assistance
 - Early College Awareness
 - Parental Support
- 780 students served 2015-2016, over 2280 since opening

Development of College Access Network

- Representatives of Camden County College, Rowan University, Rutgers-Camden, and Camden City School District attended Strengthening Higher Education and K-12 Partnership sponsored by The White House College and USDOE July 2014 and then White House Opportunity Summit in December 2014
- At the July convening, all decided to collectively create the Camden College Access Network (CCAN) and set the following goals for 2014-2015:
 - Increase the percentage of FAFSA completions from 36% to 75%
 - Increase the percentage of students enrolling in post-secondary education by 10%
 - Increase average SAT/ACT score by 10%
 - Increase the percentage of on-track seniors who participate in the SAT/ACT from 42% to 75%
 - Increase the first to second year post-secondary educations persistence rate by 25%

To create CCAN and achieve the stated goals, the group identified the following action steps:

- Apply the collective impact framework and evidence-based practices outlined by the Michigan College Access Network
- Bring together a wide range of stakeholders, encompassing leaders from all of the higher education institutions in Camden, committed to increasing college access and success
- Leverage the resources and expertise of all involved
- Create a common agenda focused on creating a college going culture, increasing college readiness and college completion in the city
 - Collective, strategic approach to college access initiatives
 - Coordinated application assistance, FAFSA support, college tours, recruitment

Progress during 2014-2015

- Challenges
 - Slow start
 - Buy in from school leadership and guidance counselors
 - Dedicated personnel to oversee development of network
- Reflections
 - Start with most committed, low hanging fruit
 - Change is hard, even with the best intentions
 - School staff is overwhelmed

Progress during 2015 – 2016

- Rutgers-Camden employed AmeriCorps Vista position to assist with coordination of college access support services from Rowan, Rutgers-Camden, and CCSD guidance counselors
 - Created uniform data collection and general calendar
- Rowan and Rutgers-Camden provided college application support to students at CCSD high schools
 - College students visited schools 1-3 times a week on a schedule
 - During visits, college students would meet with high school students to discuss post-secondary options, assist with completing applications, and support other related tasks
- CCC, Rowan, and Rutgers-Camden provided staffing support at CCSD FAFSA Week events

2016-2017 Next Steps

- **Recommitment**
 - Convene work sessions for steering committee point people
 - Identify contacts at potential partners and schedule meetings
 - Confirm with MCAN about supporting preparations for first meeting
 - Determine date for first meeting and announcement

- **District Initiatives**
 - Informed by focus on CCAN
 - PSAT for all students
 - SAT classes during school
 - College access champions at each school
 - College prep classes in all high schools (in process)

- Potential Network Membership
 - K-12: CCSD, potentially others
 - Focus on increasing post-secondary attainment city-wide
 - Invite other school types (charter, renaissance, private) to participate
 - Higher education: CCC, Rowan, Rutgers-Camden, Rowan-Rutgers Board of Governors
 - City, through Mayor's Office
 - Businesses: Cooper Hospital, Campbell's Soup, new EOA businesses business groups (e.g. chambers, associations), banks (e.g. BB&T)
 - Foundations/Philanthropists:
 - Non-Profits: Cooper's Ferry, United Way, Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Hopeworks, Urban Promise
- Official Launch
 - Spring 2017

The background features a large, semi-transparent red seal of Rutgers University Camden. The seal is circular with a sunburst design in the center. The text "RUTGERS" is prominently displayed in the center in a white, serif font. Below it, "CAMDEN" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The outer ring of the seal contains the text "UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY" on the left and "RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY" on the right, with the year "1766" at the top.

RUTGERS

CAMDEN

Nyeema Watson, Ph.D., AssociateChancellor for Civic Engagement
ncwatson@camden.rutgers.edu
856-225-6738