

ED # 1
September 26, 2011

MEMORANDUM

September 19, 2011

TO: Education Committee
FROM: *CHS*
Charles H. Sherer, Legislative Analyst
SUBJECT: Briefing from the College about recruitment

On June 13, 2011, the GO Committee received an update on Limited English Proficiency (LEP) issues. Committee member Ervin asked the College:

- to brief the Education Committee on what the College does to recruit individuals from communities with historically low college attendance rates, and
- to explain how higher education can increase economic opportunities for these individuals or others who are struggling in this economy.

The following staff from the College will attend to give the briefing:

Dr. DeRionne Pollard, President
Ms. Paula Matuskey, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Brad Stewart, Vice President & Provost, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus
Ms. Melissa Gregory, Director, Financial Aid
Mr. George Payne, Vice President, Workforce Development & Continuing Education

The College provided the attached background information on the “Pathway to Baccalaureate” program, which they mentioned in the LEP worksession on June 13.



BACCALAUREATE

PROGRAM FACT SHEET 2011-12 ACADEMIC YEAR

OUR MISSION

Since 2005, the Pathway to the Baccalaureate Program has facilitated access to a baccalaureate higher education for Northern Virginia high school graduates who have both the desire and the capacity to achieve a baccalaureate degree, but whose likelihood of academic success and access to higher education would be significantly enhanced by receiving the special support and structural guidance provided by the Pathway Program. The program provides an environment for a smooth transition and increased retention of students from high school, through Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), to George Mason University or another university of the student's choice.

WHAT WE DO

The Pathway to the Baccalaureate Program provides support to students as they make the transition from high school to NOVA, throughout NOVA, and as they transfer from NOVA to George Mason or another university. Our interventions include:

- One-on-one meetings with a Pathway Counselor to prepare for college transition at participating high schools during the regular school day
- Regular workshops on college transition issues, including the application process, placement test preparation and applying for financial aid and scholarships
- Early placement testing and priority registration on-site at participating high schools
- Learning community/cohort courses and programming at NOVA and George Mason
- Over \$1 million in grant and scholarship funding dedicated to program participants
- Participation in academic, social, athletic and cultural events and early co-enrollment opportunities at NOVA and George Mason University
- Designated program counselors on campus use one-stop, case management model to guide students through all aspects of their college careers
- Assistance with each step of transferring to a four-year college or university
- Early, guaranteed admission at George Mason

OUR SCHOOLS

In 2011-12, Pathway will operate in 46 high schools in all eight local school systems across Northern Virginia. College-matriculated Pathway students attend all six campuses of NOVA and the Fairfax campus of George Mason University, as well as many other four-year colleges and universities across the United States.

OUR STUDENTS

Nearly 6500 students are expected to participate in Pathway in the 2011-12 academic year. Of these, 93% have historically met one or more US Department of Education criteria known to adversely affect persistence in college. Please see page two of this document for more specific student information including student demographic data.

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT DATA (COHORTS 1-5)

- 85% of students transition from high school directly into post-secondary education
- 12% of students transition directly from high school into a four-year institution
- 90% of students at NOVA are retained from the first to the second semester
- 81% of students at NOVA are retained from year-to-year
- 73% of students are in good academic standing after the first semester
- 98% of students earn college credit in the first year
- Associate-level graduation rate is nearly double NOVA's average
- Students exceed both college and national benchmarks in all measured outcomes¹

¹ For more detailed information/outcomes data, please visit our website: www.nvcc.edu/pathway

OUR PARTNERSHIP



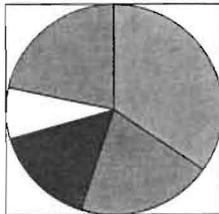
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STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS 2011-12 ACADEMIC YEAR

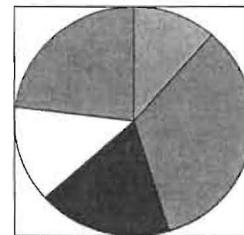
PATHWAY STUDENT ETHNICITY DATA



Latino: 35%
Caucasian & Middle Eastern: 22%
African & African American: 16%
Asian: 20%
Other Minority: 8%

Latino Asian
 African American Other Minority
 Caucasian & Middle Eastern

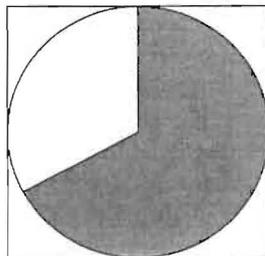
PATHWAY FAMILY SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA



Less than \$10,000: 11%
\$10,000 to \$35,000: 34%
\$35,000 to \$50,000: 18%
\$50,000 to \$70,000: 14%
\$70,000+: 23%

Less than \$10,000 \$10,000 to \$35,000 \$35,000 to \$50,000
 \$50,000 to \$70,000 \$70,000 +

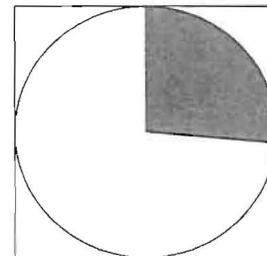
FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT DATA



1st Generation: 67%
Not 1st Generation: 33%

First Generation Not First Generation

PATHWAY STUDENT DISABILITY DATA



Students with Disabilities: 26%
No Reported Disability: 74%

Students with Disabilities Students without Disabilities

ADDITIONAL STUDENT DATA (COHORTS 1-5)

- High School GPA Range: 1.0 to 4.3; Median High School GPA: 2.70
- 35% of students completed at least one college-level course while in high school
- 55% of students completed at least one vocational/technical course while in high school
- 36% of high school participants receive free or reduced lunch
- 65% of participating students apply for Federal Financial Aid and/or scholarships
- 46% of FAFSA filers are within 250% of HHS Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Financial aid participation rate of NOVA Pathway students is more than double the college average
- 65% of high school participants have not participated in other formal college access programming

PROGRAM RECOGNITION

Since its inception, the Pathway to the Baccalaureate Program has been lauded as an innovative model of college access and success. Educational organizations and publications across the nation have showcased our collaborative, shared-cost operational model, including the 2010 White House Summit on Community Colleges, the College Board and the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance. Pathway has received multiple awards and accolades, including the 2009 Virginia Excellence in Education Award, and was a 2009 *Examples of ¡Excelencia!* finalist by the Excelencia in Education Foundation. A case study, *Pathway to the Baccalaureate: How One Community College Is Helping Underprepared Students Succeed*, was released by the New America Foundation in April 2010. Pathway to the Baccalaureate was recently described in *US News & World Report* as "a national example" for promoting post-secondary success among at-risk student populations.