

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%
 - o 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)



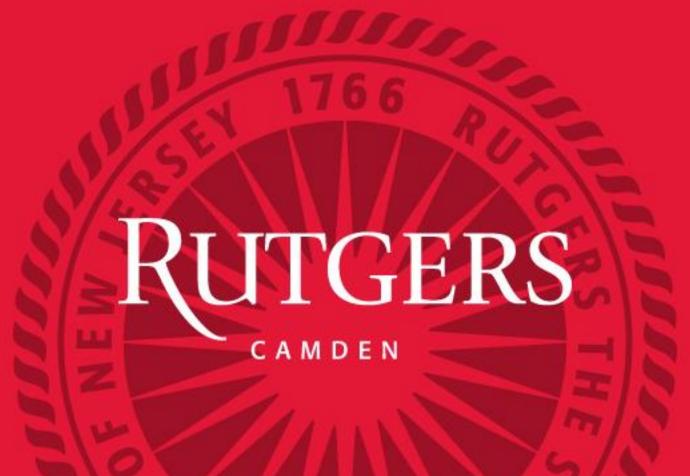
Potential Network Membership

- 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)
- o Foundations/Philanthropists:
- Non-Profits: Cooper's Ferry, United Way, Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Hopeworks, Urban Promise

Official Launch

Spring 2017





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