

Project Briefing: Guided Pathways to Success

Overview

As a component of a \$20M TAACCT grant awarded to the Massachusetts Community College system to advance training and educational opportunities in STEM fields, health care, and advanced manufacturing, funding was received for an experimental project to integrate the data systems of the public higher education and the public workforce systems. The objectives are to:

- 1) Enable students to make informed choices about career options and investing in their education.
- 2) Equip higher education leaders with tools to assess programs based on job placement outcomes for students.

In support of the project, Five Star created a series of integrated portals and tools that:

- 1) Help students find a career path through exploration tools and a personalized **student pathways portal** that matches interests with high-demand and growing fields in the region.
- 2) Promote and streamline the process of obtainment and award of experiential learning in a **credit for prior learning application**, supporting students and college staff.
- 3) Remove barriers to training, employer and workforce data through a robust **research and reporting toolkit** that allows easy access to metrics needed for actionable and impactful decision making.

The program is in a Pilot phase through September of 2018.

About Five Star

In business since 1997, Five Star delivers innovative technology plans and solutions — quickly, efficiently and comprehensively. With hands-on business experience and extensive technical knowledge, Five Star has a unique ability to swiftly target the heart of the problem and introduce innovative solutions. By creatively identifying possibilities previously undiscovered — our client wish lists become realities that add real efficiencies to their organization. For more information visit www.fivestardev.com or email info@fivestardev.com or call 412-802-2500.

Student Pathways Portal

Channeling prospective students into local community college programs that meet their interests and needs — and align with high-demand careers in their area — this portal provides details about the number and types of jobs, wages, and necessary skill requirements for the occupations selected. Students are guided through a series of brief questions and assessments, providing the most relevant matches of education programs to career options. An action plan shows students career and academic options, and provides actionable next steps toward enrollment. As an example, if a prospective student identified a military background, the action plan includes steps to attain veteran benefits, as well as the veteran contact information at the college. The action plan also provides college admissions counselors with the student's preferred occupations and programs, and identifies specific items that should be discussed as a student goes through the enrollment process.

Credit for Prior Learning Application

Building awareness and facilitating information gathering, this application streamlines assessment and reporting on experiential learning. The process begins with a 'life experiences inventory' guided wizard that collects the types of prior learning students have, providing an opportunity to select a college and a program of interest. With the help of a specialist at that college, the student completes a petition for a type of credit for prior learning required for that program. In the case that an ePortfolio is required, the specialist connects the student with a portfolio coach, who works with the student to complete that portfolio with all the necessary narratives and documentation so that the evaluator can determine if credit should be awarded based on a set of predetermined outcomes.

Research and Reporting Toolkit

Leveraging a powerful data warehouse, which is comprised of labor market and educational data from local, state and federal sources, this robust, browser-based tool facilitates in-depth analysis for institutional researchers, faculty and workforce development staff. Decision-makers can evaluate the efficacy of academic programs, examine local and statewide labor market demand, and determine the real-world success of program completers in the employment marketplace. Integrating data from colleges (programs and enrollment) with local, state and federal labor market data (available jobs, occupation trends, salaries, projections, and requirements) the toolkit provides the insights needed to support the right strategies for students, colleges and the economy.

Types of Data Used

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

High demand jobs, wages, and employment projections



HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Program, courses, and educational outcomes



STUDENT WORKFORCE OUTCOMES

Return on investment for student entering the workforce

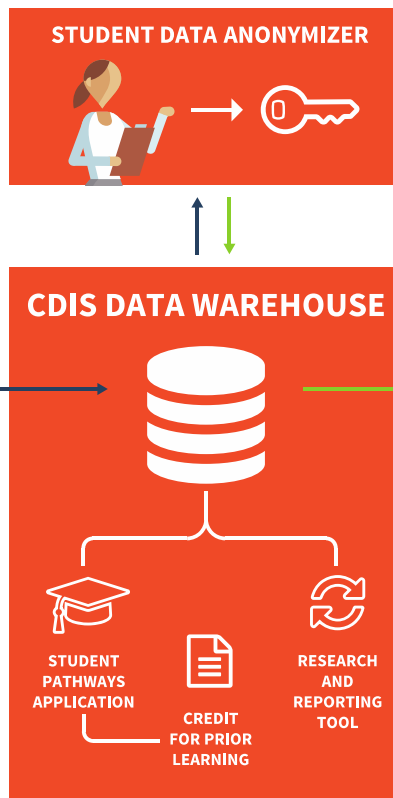


AGGREGATE ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

Alignment of program and students with employment demand



Data Storage



DATA WAREHOUSE



A powerful hub of labor market and educational data from local, state, and federal sources, with strong focus on security and the centralized management and distribution of information.

Data Output

STUDENT PATHWAYS APPLICATION



This application is designed to help jobseekers and prospective students make informed decisions about career options and to understand the role MA community colleges play in pursuing them. Supported by current labor market information and college offerings, the site provides an engaging experience that culminates with a detailed action plan to drive enrollment.

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING



This system streamlines and promotes the process of assessing Credit for Prior Learning through a portal that brings together students and the support staff within the college. The site centralizes all activity through an interactive and comprehensive interface. In addition, it coordinates the coaching of ePortfolio candidates and provides a repository for creation and evaluation of portfolio documentation.

RESEARCH AND REPORTING TOOL



This browser based tool puts in-depth analysis and research in the hands of institutional researchers, faculty, and workforce development staff. Longitudinal data can be accessed that focuses on efficacy of academic programs, local and state-wide labor market demand, and the real-world success of program completers in the employment market place.

Who Uses the Data?

The GPSTEM Comprehensive Data Integration System puts critical labor market and educational data into the hands of students, businesses, and institutional researchers tasked with aligning academic programs and outcomes with employment demand in order to drive positive economic impact within the State.

ADMINISTRATORS/ INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH



ADVISORS/ JOB COUNSELORS EDUCATORS



STUDENTS AND WORKERS



BUSINESSES



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