

ICAN Spring Forum Notes

June 6, 2011

Session One- Welcome by Dr. Jerry E. McGee and Dr. A. Hope Williams

Dr. McGee-

- Three college presidents grew up within a few blocks of one another in Rockingham, NC. Dr. McGee grew up in the worst house on the worst street. Feels he is there because SOMEONE cared. But at this point in his life and a few years from retirement, he is forced to recognize, "WHY ME?" Those three individuals had all the same beginnings yet not all had the same opportunities.
- Always say yes when you can.
- Every person needs a chance to succeed.
- Don't go to bed at night without thinking about the good you are doing to help and encourage others. There is NO more important work.

Dr. Williams-

- Thank you to the group for their organization
- College Access program only 1 year old.
- #1 goal is getting some of those funds down to the college level. A lot of the work involves public policy, counselor tours, research grants, etc. but the priority is to make college more accessible.
- 83,000 students impacted across 36 colleges and universities
- Impact can continue to grow.
- NC was one of the few schools able to increase Pell grants in recent years.
- Future plans will include funding when universities find ways to work within institutions.
- In her experience, there are no two campuses alike.
- 49% of private school students are Pell eligible so the students who need us do find us but there is room for growth.
- Impact not only on students but on family members. A student's education impacts all those around him or her currently and in the future.
- Emphasis on partnerships
 - Consortium
 - Active ones include Raleigh and Charlotte
 - Challenge grants- only state where independent Colleges participate
 - Partnerships
- CFNC
 - First joint effort between colleges
 - Lower college- going rate was able to increase
 - Every student can apply through CFNC

- Both applications and transfer information
 - Library resources
- Access challenge
 - Providing funds
 - Exciting projects to encourage students to go to college and how to help them stay.
 - Legislation makes a major difference
 - Make sure we are telling our story
- Students have a lack of support networks
 - Students might be too shy or too embarrassed to ask for help.
 - How do we make them feel comfortable to ask?
- Budget cuts
 - Will be happening
 - Programs will be eliminated
 - LTG cuts of 12.3% for fall
 - 80% of students who receive LTG also receive need-based aid
 - Great part has been that all students can receive but that also makes it complex to continue.
 - Legislature proposed 104 million in cuts. 62 million will happen. Changes in criterion would have allowed only 7 million to be used with the new standards.
 - Private schools will have same amount cut as state system in the 1st year. Same as need based aid in the 2nd year.
 - All of these make EVERY effort more important.
- Every student/ every child has potential.
 - NCICU wants to be part of that effort
 - There will be light at the end of the tunnel to increase opportunities.
- ICAN/You CAN/We CAN

Session Two- High School student panel discussion

- 6 students from Monroe, HS
- 2 seniors
- 2 juniors
- 2 sophomores
- What schools have they chosen?
 - Winston-Salem State, Queens University, and UNC Chapel-Hill
- Most difficult parts of college admissions process?
 - Process
 - Fees
- Most helpful part of the process?
 - Financial Aid process
 - Counselor

- What could have been better?
 - More info online
 - Majors
 - Financial information
 - Difficult to get in touch with college staff sometimes
 - Better understanding of deadlines
- Advice for juniors and sophomores
 - Research more and sooner
 - Make sure the school has your major and you can afford to go there
 - Start early- there is lots to go through
- Where are you in process? What you've done so far?
 - Down to several selections
 - Some have chosen
 - Sent out requests
 - Prefers to talk to counselor
 - Looked at internet
 - Felt it was limited
- How many colleges and universities in NC?
 - 100
 - 125
 - 150
 - Right answer was more than 100
- Questions or concerns that are still present
 - First generation college fears
 - Finding balance- transition issues- opportunities that exist
 - Limited opportunities
 - Schedules, what teachers are like/ratio
 - Orientation
 - Schedule
 - Meet professors
 - Syllabus
 - "LINK" leaders
- Who helps?
 - Attentive college counselors
 - 2 guidance counselors
 - 1 access coordinator
 - 2 for 600 students

Session Three- College student panel discussion

- Advising balance- keep major options open
- Connection Queens- icebreaker opportunities

- Biggest fears
 - Relevancy of degree
 - Pigeon-holed by GPA
 - Walking on eggshells- Carry the weight of a lot of people (family, friends, community, team)
 - 1 of 8 will actually get into Pharmacy school
 - Trying to get a job in education
- IDEA- Department Newsletters
 - Get more info from Queens

Session Four- Dr. Nicole Farmer Hurd

- National College Advising Corporation
- Guidance Counselor statistics
 - 1-369 in VA
 - 1-400 in NC
 - 1-488 Nationally
- We need to hold hands with our high school partners.
- Students under age of 25 are the first generation who will be less educated than their parents.
- NCAC works like AmeriCorps but in low income hs's.
 - Hold hands with guidance counselors
 - Received \$10 million dollar grant the next year.
 - 14 states so far, 326 college grads, 105,000 students impacted
 - 14% increase in college-going rates
 - Young people need to hear we have stories like theirs too.
 - NC has a lot of advances
 - CFNC portal
 - FAFSA Day 4,800 students helped
 - College app week
 - 28 schools waived fees
- Carolina Corps
- NC statistics
 - 100 high school students
 - 88 want to attend college (8th grade)
 - 65 will graduate from high school (12th grade)
 - 28 enter 4year college
 - 22 enter sophomore year
 - 15 enter 2year college
 - 7 enter sophomore year
 - 11 graduate on time (4 year)
 - 3 graduate (2 year)

- 14/100 will graduate from college.
- National statistics
 - 100 high school students
 - 69 will graduate from high school (12th grade)
 - 27 enter 4year college
 - 20 enter sophomore year
 - 15 enter 2year college
 - 7 enter sophomore year
 - 9 graduate on time (4 year)
 - 4 graduate late (4 year)
 - 13/100 will graduate from college.
- Pell Grant funding is under attack.
 - Challenge grant funds also struggling.
- Data and evaluation is imperative.
 - Shows how effective program is
 - Must be able to quantify
 - ROI on young people
 - Where do you want to spend money?
 - EDUCATION or SOCIAL SERVICES?
 - How can we combat?
 - Think about ways to volunteer to high schools
- “Just Like Me” campaign
- Be Messengers of HOPE!

Sessions Five- Dr. Leonard Haynes

- You always have to have rationale for your actions.
- China is the largest English speaking country
- Soon the US will be the largest Spanish speaking country
- 15th in education
- Latest PEW research= Majority of Americans don't feel college is worthwhile investment
- Becoming a society of the ignorant. PT Barnum, “There's one born every minute”
- Ethics is important
- IF we remember nothing else, “HISTORY DOES NOT BEGIN WHEN YOU SHOW UP”- Leonard Haynes
- 5 F's for effective life
 - FOCUS
 - FINISH what you start
 - FOLLOW-up
 - FOLLOW through
 - FAITH
- If technology is the answer, what is the question?

- Job as educator is to stamp out ignorance
- If you are surrounded by ignorance, you are looking failure in the eye
- Ask “Why should anyone come here (to your institution)?”
 - Have updated web
 - Have campus map
 - Economic impact study
 - Meaningful relationship with public school system
 - STEM (high school is too late)