

Bridge To Success Newsletter

April 2012

A Partnership Between the City and County of San Francisco, City College of San Francisco, San Francisco State University, and the San Francisco Unified School District



What is Bridge to Success?

Bridge to Success is a partnership between the City and County of San Francisco, City College of San Francisco, San Francisco State University and the San Francisco Unified School District to double the number of youth, particularly African American and Latino youth, who achieve college credentials. This effort, funded by the Gates Foundation, invests in changing policies, practices, and partnerships to ensure that more San Francisco youth earn college degree or credential.

City College Parent Night - Thursday April 26th

Bridge to Success invites you to attend an information session for parents and families on April 26th from 6:30-8:30 PM at City College of San Francisco, Ocean Campus. This event, which is offered in English, Chinese and Spanish, will discuss what City College has to offer – from cost-effective opportunities for job preparation, courses to get on a path to transferring to a four-year university, ESL classes, to technical career paths. Dinner and door prizes will be offered at this event – we hope you will join us!

The event will be held at City College's main campus at 50 Phelan Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112, in the Multiuse Building, Room 140. City College is accessible via BART (Balboa Station) and MUNI lines (9x, 9AX, 9BX to Phelan Loop, 29 to Ocean & Lee Street, 43 to Ocean/Phelan Campus). Parking is free.

FRISCO Day Was a Success!

Bridge to Success' second annual "FRISCO Day" was a huge success with more than 2,300 students attending on Friday April 13th, 2012. FRISCO Day, an acronym for FRIday Successful College Options, is designed to assist graduating seniors from San Francisco San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) acquire tools for college success and learn how to successfully navigate college systems. The event took place at three venues simultaneously. Students who plan to attend City College of San Francisco participated in the Ocean campus events, students who plan to attend a University of California school visited the University of California, San Francisco Mission Bay campus, and students who plan to attend all another community colleges, a California State University campus, private or out of state college attended workshops at St. Mary's Event Center.

At the City College event, seniors were greeted by City College student ambassadors and volunteers who welcomed and guided them through a resource fair with over 50 tables hosted by academic departments, student services and student clubs. The event began with a welcome rally which included remarks by Mayor Ed Lee, SFUSD Superintendent Carlos Garcia, SFUSD Deputy Superintendent Richard Carranza, City College Dean Laurie Scolari, and an SFUSD graduate who is now in her first year at City College. Students then had the option to select from a myriad of activities and workshops, everything from how to register for a class to departmental tours to information for undocumented students and transferring to a four- year college. Each time a student participated in an activity, they were entered in a raffle to win a laptop donated by Microsoft. A student, who was awarded a fully-loaded Microsoft laptop computer through a raffle at the event, told organizers, "I didn't have a college plan. But now I'm so excited about coming to City College. I have four classes for this fall and I even memorized the registration date. It's June 26 at 4 PM." This excitement was echoed by students' at all three venues.

St. Mary's Event Center hosted more than 600 high school seniors who plan to attend either a California State University campus, private college in California, or an out of state college. Students were grouped by college geographical locations and rotated with their group throughout the day to network and "get to know" new students attending the same college. Students attended three workshops which focused on resources available on campuses, strategies on how to deal with common obstacles students may face in college, and how students keep and budget their financial aid.

UCSF hosted almost 500 students at their event. UCSF faculty, staff and various volunteers focused on financial aid, social/family transition to college, academic competency and all three workshops touched on campus resources and self-

advocacy. After the event, a student from Burton High School shared that he felt renewed and motivated; he felt he was ready to be a successful student at a California university.

Traditionally, about 25 percent of SFUSD graduating seniors don't have a plan for college by the time they graduate high school. The purpose of FRISCO Day is to help students develop a plan. As a result of FRISCO Day, these students are equipped with information and have met people who can help them develop a plan for their post-secondary options.

Coming Up Next

The next Steering Committee meeting is May 16, 2012 from 2-4pm at City College.

Updates from Bridge to Success Action Teams

- Early Warning Indicators Action Team
Two schools have been chosen to participate in a staff focus group at the end of April or early May to gather best practices that will be disseminated to all schools in the fall. Harder & Company will be facilitating the focus groups of key staff members who have been involved in working with students identified by Early Warning Indicators.
- CBO Partnership Action Team
At a team meeting held on March 7th, the CBO Partnership Action team discussed best practices that "Post-Secondary Success" CBOs are utilizing in their service partnerships with SFUSD, identified common challenges with CBO-SFUSD partnerships, and brainstormed over system changes that would foster more effective partnerships to enhance students' post-secondary success. The team identified two high priority action items for completion in the next 6 months: 1) a survey and database directory of all CBOs which address post-secondary success of SFUSD students and 2) a presentation to SFUSD high school principals to inform them of all the CBO supports for post-secondary success. The last meeting planned for this school year will be held on May 2nd, and the CBO Partnerships Action Team will discuss strategies for enhancing CBO partnerships with City College.
- Concurrent Enrollment Action Team
The CTE dual enrollment office is offering a small summer program that is compatible and aligned with the San Francisco Unified School District's summer schedule. A math course will be offered, and it can be used for credit recovery purposes. Also offered are computer-based Orientation to Design and Graphic Communications courses, as well as a welding course. This action team is inviting veterans who are registered at the college to join high school students in the welding program, in an effort to build mentorships and good relations between high school students and veterans with more extensive life experiences. Willis Beasely, the welding instructor, has a good track record of helping his students network and build clubs that continue to meet after the class ends.
- Workforce and Career Pathways Action Team
The Workforce and Career Action Team met on March 13th to develop next-step strategies based on an analysis of who is currently being reached through SFUSD's Career Technical Education, DCYF's youth workforce development and City College's Dual Enrollment programs. This action team is now identifying ways to improve outreach to targeted students for these programs. One strategy is to improve counselor awareness of available options. A late summer orientation session and improved marketing materials are currently being developed.

For more information, please contact:

Sandra Naughton, San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, at snaughton@dcyf.org

Maureen Carew, San Francisco Unified School District, at carewm@sfusd.edu

Laurie Scolari, City College of San Francisco, at laurie.scolari@mail.ccsf.edu