

# Newsletter

[www.sfbridgetosuccess.org](http://www.sfbridgetosuccess.org)

December 2012



## FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

*"[Summer Bridge] makes me feel like I am prepared for college. At my high school they taught us about college over and over again, but I didn't listen to it. Now that it's getting closer, I need to pay attentions so I know what I'm doing. I don't [want to] get stuck here for six years."*

2012 Summer Bridge Student

## COMING UP NEXT

**Steering Committee  
January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1-3pm  
City College MUB 39**

## BTS LEADERS LEARN FROM LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE

On November 29, a team of Bridge to Success partners traveled to Long Beach to see firsthand the exciting post-secondary pathways being created there. Since 1998, the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College, and CSU Long Beach have been working collaboratively to ensure that the number of Long Beach students completing college increases dramatically. They have implemented a variety of innovative policies and practices to guide students from kindergarten to college, including the following:

- every fourth grader in the school district visits City College
- every fifth grader in the district visits the CSU
- multiple pathways for local students to receive priority at both the City College and CSU
- local foundations have raised \$6.2 million to pay for a free first semester at Long Beach City College, which can often be an incentive to attend college for some students who are uncertain about their educational futures
- meetings with faculty from all three educational institutions to discuss current topics such as implementation of the Common Core Standards
- Student-centered scheduling



Source: [www.lbpost.com](http://www.lbpost.com)

A major initiative that was highlighted during the visit was Long Beach's new Promise Pathways initiative, which was implemented this fall. This initiative provides early registration for courses and a more holistic placement process for LBUSD graduates enrolling at Long Beach City College that aims to place them in math and English classes in which they can have a higher change of success. To participate in the Promise Pathways initiative students need to enroll full-time and their first year course load is more prescriptive to help them complete within two years. This initiative is also piloting a contextualized reading program and using college success coaches to work with students in small groups and individually to ensure they are succeeding in school.

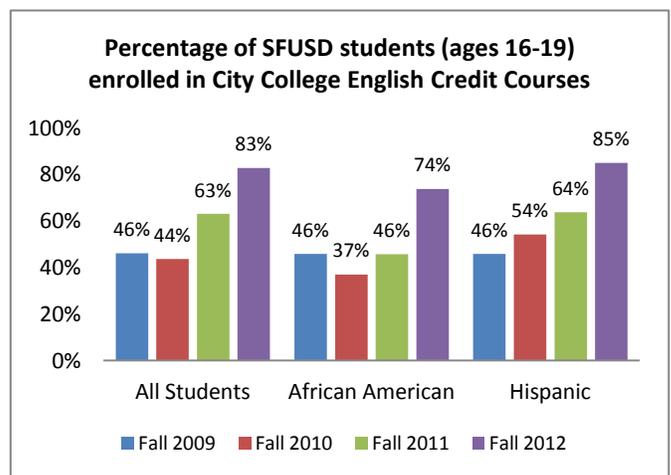
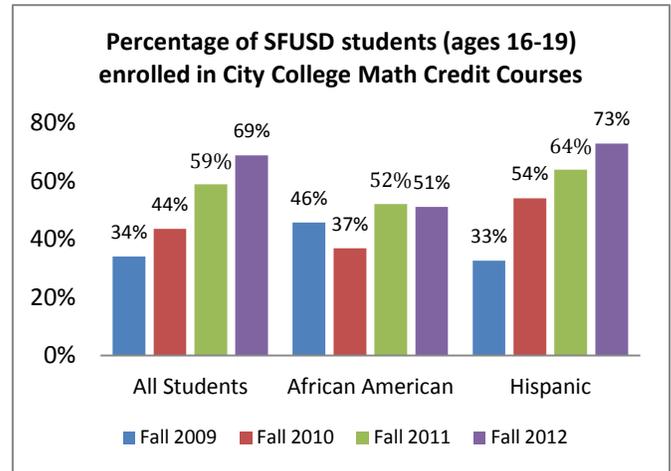
Long Beach stakeholders were incredibly candid and forthcoming in their presentations and small group sessions, sharing their challenges and lessons learned. Long Beach stakeholders emphasized the importance of communication and collaboration, as well as leadership at all levels sending out a "consistent drumbeat" that their partnership efforts are the key to post-secondary success for all local students. Many of the outreach materials for these Long Beach College Promise efforts inform and remind every Long Beach Unified School District student that there is a place waiting for them at CSU Long Beach or at Long Beach City College. Their commitment and dedication to their students is admirable and their willingness to share their best practices and lessons learned will inform Bridge to Success over the coming year.

## EARLY REGISTRATION FOR SFUSD STUDENTS SHOWING POSITIVE RESULTS

Through Bridge to Success, City College launched an early registration pilot in 2010 to combat a troubling first year retention rate of less than 50%. Historically, incoming freshman found themselves last in line to register for classes, resulting in frustration and difficulty getting into necessary math and English courses.

Though the program is only in its third year, the early registration policy is already showing positive results. The portion of first year students enrolling in first-year math and English courses in 2009 was 34% and 46% respectively. In 2012, the numbers are 69% for math and 83% for English, a huge leap. Especially encouraging are the numbers for Hispanic/Latino students, whose enrollment increased 121% in math, and 84% in English, between 2009 and 2012. Enrolling in these classes their first semester is a crucial component in getting students on the right path at City College, and ensuring their timely transition into a career or four-year university. 2010 was the first year that early registration was made available to every graduating SFUSD senior planning on attending City College, and 98% of students who took advantage of early registration returned for a second semester.

Though there is still work to be done, early registration represents a crucial step in ensuring concrete pathways to post-secondary education for SFUSD students.



## Action Team Updates

### Early Warning Indicators Action Team

We met in December and continued their review of current research related to dropout prevention. The group identified 4 distinct themes related to effective uses of Early Warning Indicators by schools and districts: Cross-functional teams analyzing data and coordinating services; Strategies for supporting students that are shared across the school; Strategies focused on developing positive relationships between adults and students; and Strategies centered on academic experiences. Next steps for the EWI workgroup include developing an interactive assessment process to support high-school teams in understanding how they currently utilize strategies in each of these areas.

### FRISCO Day Action Team

BTS stakeholders have been meeting to discuss plans for this year's event, including a date in mid April, locations and offerings. Stay tuned for more info soon.

### Post-Secondary CBO Partnership Action Team

We developed a Post-Secondary CBO Directory that features program descriptions and listings by SFUSD schools. The directory can be downloaded from the BTS website.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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