

# Bridge To Success Newsletter

March 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.

## ***Feature Story: FRISCO Day Approaching and Your Support Is Needed***

FRISCO Day planning and implementation is in full-swing. To date, presentations on the event have been delivered to senior classes at 14 of 18 San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) secondary schools, and permission slips have been distributed to all secondary schools. All SFUSD seniors are encouraged to participate in and enjoy the day-long festivities scheduled from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. on Friday April 13, 2012. Meanwhile, City College Counseling and Testing Staff continue to inform SFUSD students about City College's matriculation process.

We need your participation to ensure this city-wide event helps all SFUSD seniors be prepared for success in college. To volunteer at the City College venue, please visit <http://friscodayccsf.eventbrite.com/> or to volunteer at either the UCSF or St. Mary's venue, please visit <http://friscoday2012-eresearch.eventbrite.com/?srnk=2>

## ***SFUSD Implements New Online Tool to Help Counselors and Students with Post-Secondary Planning***

ConnectEDU, an online tool launched in San Francisco during the summer of 2011, helps counselors, teachers, parents and most importantly, students to maximize their time spent on college and career planning and academic review. The online tool allows users to explore college options and careers and view regularly updated student data including grades, SAT scores and course completion. The tool helps students see where their academic achievement falls within their post-secondary explorations.

SFUSD's 9th grade college and career class, called Plan Ahead, incorporates ConnectEDU into the curriculum. Through the Plan Ahead class, all 9th grade students will log on, create a profile, and begin their college explorations. In terms of informing SFUSD staff about the tool, in late January SFUSD held a professional development session on the tool for a total of 100 counselors -- 54 participated in a "basic user training" and 46 participate in an "advanced user training." Training documentation and best practices were created for takeaway and future use.

As ConnectEDU is introduced within SFUSD, its usage continues to increase. Currently there are 4,714 student and staff users registered in the ConnectEDU system. More than 1,200 users have accessed the tool three or more times and more than 400 users accessed it eight or more times.

## ***Coming Up Next***

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled on March, 21 2012 at San Francisco Unified School District.

## **Updates from Bridge to Success Action Teams**

- Early Warning Indicators Action Team

The Early Warning Indicators (EWI) Action Team has met three times and is making great progress. The team is working with Harder & Company to finalize a protocol for focus groups of key staff involved with EWI students in three SFUSD high schools. Focus group meetings will take place in April. After the focus group meetings are conducted, the EWI Action Team will begin to look at best practices and how to best share them with schools.

- CBO Partnerships Action Team  
In March, the CBO Partnerships Action Team met to discuss how to enhance partnerships for both sides of SFUSD-CBO partnerships. The group has identified several priority actions, including creating a directory of postsecondary support CBOs across San Francisco, and planning/identifying an opportunity for CBOs to present their programs to school administrators to strengthen connections at the school site. The CBO Partnerships Action Team has also created a website to serve as a resource repository called the CBO directory, an information sharing source. Please visit the website to take a look at and contribute resources: <https://sites.google.com/site/btscbopartnership/>
- Summer Action Team  
The Summer Action Team will be meeting on March 19 to discuss in greater detail the summer programming and outreach activities that were proposed at the February Steering Committee meeting. The team will help brainstorm and gather input from youth and others on how to ensure that the proposed summer activities reach and engage the target population – Latino, African American, low-income and first-generation SFUSD graduates who are planning to attend City College.
- Counseling Action Team  
The Counseling Action Team has an exciting few months ahead. The group is hosting a professional development opportunity for SFUSD and City College counselors on March 20th to better understand how to work with other institutions. The Counseling Action Team is also hosting a Parent Night for parents on April 26th, where parents of potential City College students can come to learn more about what they can expect for their students' first year. The Counseling Action Team is excited about creating these opportunities to connect with one another and with the community.
- Concurrent Enrollment Action Team  
On February 23rd, the Dual Enrollment office at City College held a well-attended professional development activity for City College and SFUSD teachers and counselors. The team started the evening by listening to findings from the Research and Planning group for California Community College's *Student Transfer in Professional Pathways Project*. The study aimed to understand (1) how transfer students travel through the state's community colleges and universities—both public and private—to achieve a professional degree, (2) what factors impact their journey along the way, and (3) how to facilitate and increase their access to and success in these majors. The decision to focus on the long view of our students, from high school through the transfer process, brought into perspective the role each institution plays in the educational trajectory of SFUSD students. There was opportunity during the evening for counselors to meet as a group and faculty/teachers to meet in sectors to review curriculum and align programs from high school to college. It was a productive and well-received evening.
- English Action Team  
The Bridge to Success Executive Team has asked the John Gardner Center to analyze data on English placement test results and high school English performance indicators. The Bridge to Success Core team will then work with English faculty at City College and SFUSD to draft recommendations for alternatives to the placement test.
- Math Action Team  
The Math Action team is continuing to meet and explore recommendations including: alternatives to the placement test, strategies for the classroom, and professional development. This Action Team has representatives from City College and SFUSD.
- Workforce and Career Pathways Action Team  
On February 27th, the Workforce and Career Pathways Action Team presented data to the BTS Steering Committee on which students were currently being reached through SFUSD's Career Technical Education, City College's Dual Enrollment, and DCYF-funded CBO-operated programs. The team is now working on developing specific strategies to increase outreach to and engagement of African American and Latino youth in these existing opportunities and how to better utilize programs funded by DCYF to support student achievement through alignment and increasing credit-bearing opportunities. Another Workforce and Career Pathways Action Team meeting was held on March 14th to map out next steps.

**For more information, please contact:**

Sandra Naughton, San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, at [snaughton@dcyf.org](mailto:snaughton@dcyf.org)  
Maureen Carew, San Francisco Unified School District, at [carewm@sfusd.edu](mailto:carewm@sfusd.edu)  
Laurie Scolari, City College of San Francisco, at [laurie.scolari@mail.ccsf.edu](mailto:laurie.scolari@mail.ccsf.edu)