

# Newsletter

www.sfbridgetosuccess.org

November 2012



## FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

*“When I worked at a school site, I spent a great deal of time navigating City College’s enrollment process myself which can be confusing. It’s an equity issue when so much attention is given to students applying to four-year colleges. Bridge to Success made the process systematized and easier for schools to support all students.”*

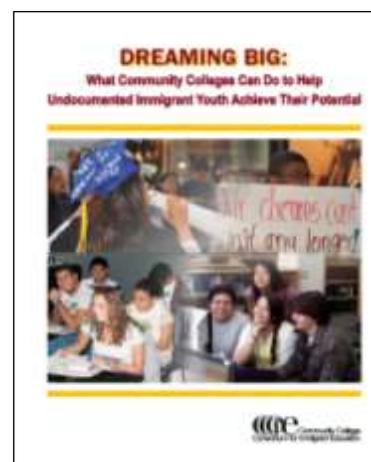
**SHARON ZIMMERN**

Program Administrator, SFUSD Career Readiness Division of Curriculum Instruction

## CITY COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTED FOR INNOVATIVE WORK IN SUPPORTING UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

The Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education has released a report that praises City College’s success in making community college accessible to undocumented students. The report, entitled “Dreaming Big: What Community Colleges Can Do to Help Undocumented Immigrant Youth Achieve Their Potential,” cites specific community colleges nationwide making strides to help undocumented immigrants achieve and maintain enrollment.

The report stresses the importance of providing resources and support to undocumented students, and mentions City College’s comprehensive web presence and Students Advocating for Equity (SAFE), the first student club focusing on undocumented students, as important components. Additionally, the AB540 Task Force, which provides professional development for faculty and staff on the unique position of undocumented students, and the Multicultural Retention Services Department are referenced as signs of institution-wide support for students, regardless of their status.



Dean Lindy McKnight, a Bridge to Success Steering Committee member, is quoted in the report talking about the Civic Engagement Initiative, a program to provide students with work-study positions and internships that allow undocumented students to receive financial aid as well as valuable skills training. She says, “The main message to undocumented students is, ‘You’re valued. You can apply.’ The psychological impact is huge.”

Additionally, Bridge to Success is specifically cited as a program that strengthens the K-12 pipeline that facilitates enrollment and retention at City College. The collaboration between the college and the school district is praised for successfully identifying and assisting students who may have otherwise fallen through the cracks, especially in the cases of undocumented students. The full report can be found at: [http://www.cccie.org/images/stories/DREAMING\\_BIG\\_CCCIE\\_Report\\_9-2012\\_final\\_version.pdf](http://www.cccie.org/images/stories/DREAMING_BIG_CCCIE_Report_9-2012_final_version.pdf)

## LEADERSHIP TRANSITION FOR BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

Laurie Scolari will leave her position at City College and plans to take on a new leadership role at the Career Ladders Project starting November 26. She will spearhead the California Community College Linked Learning Initiative and in that capacity, she will work on removing transitional barriers as students leave high school and enter community colleges throughout California. To ensure the Bridge to Success project is institutionalized, Laurie hopes to continue on as a consultant to the project. Dean Lindy McKnight will continue to provide administrative leadership to the project.

## COMING UP NEXT

**Executive Committee  
December 5**

## NEW HOME AND POLICY PRIORITIES FOR TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH INITIATIVE

In April, Mayor Edwin Lee issued a policy directive to City departments that fund and provide services to Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) to come together to provide a unified set of policy priorities, and to identify a deputy from each department to work with the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF) to collect data on TAY outcomes. DCYF is now the home of the TAYSF Initiative and Glenn Eagleson of DCYF named the Citywide lead for TAY services.

“I’m really excited by the commitment of the Mayor’s Office, DCYF, and other City departments to coordinate services for TAY,” said Eagleson. “While the City has made some gains in services, we still have over 8,000 young people who are not connected to school or work.”

The initiative is currently developing performance measures to be used citywide in tracking TAY, finalizing a guide for alternative education and GED programs in San Francisco, and working with a national network of cities (including Boston, Philadelphia, Denver) to learn from their efforts in establishing re-engagement centers for 18-26 year-olds without high school diplomas or GEDs.

The initiative also launched website in the spring for services targeted at TAY: [www.sf4tay.org](http://www.sf4tay.org). For more information, contact Glenn at [geagleson@dcyf.org](mailto:geagleson@dcyf.org).

## JOINT TRAINING BRINGS TOGETHER SFUSD, CITY COLLEGE, AND COMMUNITY ORGS TO LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL AID



On November 9<sup>th</sup>, counselors from City College, SFUSD, Gear Up, and community organizations came together to kick off a concerted effort to get all students to apply for financial aid. The day-long event provided workshops around the basics of financial aid (FAFSA and Dream Act completion), how financial aid completion impacts college enrollment and why it is a priority for underrepresented students, and planning financial aid activities for school sites.

Presenters included SFUSD and City College Staff, the California Student Aid Commission, Educators for Fair Consideration, the United Way of the Bay Area, and AACE Educational Services, Talent Search, Trio. Assistant Superintendent of High Schools Janet Schulze kicked off the day and discussed the importance of Financial Aid for all students and Mayor Lee’s Education Advisor Hydra Mendoza led conversations with Community Based Organizations to encourage their support. SFUSD Superintendent Richard Carranza also encouraged the audience and shared how many parents and students, particularly immigrant and first generation in college, don’t understand the financial aid system and often get discouraged from pursuing post-secondary degrees because of financial barriers.

## Action Team Updates

### Early Warning Indicators Action Team

The EWI work group met last week to examine current research on dropout prevention and early warning indicators. For the next meeting, they will to continue to look further at research so that we can share best practices with principals.

### FRISCO Day Action Team

The Frisco Day Team has met to lay the groundwork for this year’s event and are hoping to build off of last year’s momentum, while exploring new ways to make Frisco Day a permanent part of the SF landscape.

### Workforce and Career Pathways Action Team

The Workforce and Career Pathways Working Group met on October 30th. They are discussing ways to better align DCYF-funded workforce programs with the internships offered by the Career Technical Education Division for Pathway and Academy students. In addition, they are planning to develop additional brochures to highlight new career pathways, possibly focusing on Hospitality/Tourism and Finance.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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