

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

**REVISED
AGENDA ITEM: 5.0**

DATE: June 10, 2015

SUBJECT: Jump Start Program Update

South Dakota Jump Start is moving forward on various fronts as time approach for the first cohort of students to arrive on campuses. Access Advisors have currently identified close to 300 potential students for Cohort 1 and continue to work with college admissions offices, Jump Start Advisors (JSA’s), the 50 target high schools and students identified as eligible for the program. Challenges on some campuses in obtaining PELL-eligible status have hindered recruitment efforts for both Access and Jump Start Advisors. We are estimating the first cohort will be at approximately 70% of the original goal, with the difference to be picked up in Cohort 2 for a total of 94% of the 900 student goal. An update related to the current enrollment numbers for each institution can be found in Attachment I.

The first cohort is expected to arrive on campuses in late July, 2015 for Summer Bridge activities with students receiving up to five credits in developmental and general education classes, and pre-employment services including financial literacy, career exploration, and job readiness. Living Learning Community are being established to align with move-in at the end of July and continues through their first year of college. Student mentors will work with new students during the summer and potentially throughout the first year.

Jump Start Advisors have now been hired at each campus and will work through September 30, 2018. Jump Start Advisors are working with Access Advisors, campus Admissions and other staff, students, families, and communities to provide support and help connect resources and create plans for students’ success. The JSA’s will serve both as a retention advisor and the key staff person for the Living Learning Communities throughout the students’ first year, and continue as the students’ retention advisor during their sophomore year. They will also be responsible for oversight of the Lending Library which is designed to provide assistance with books and laptops for students in the program. Currently, campus staff working with the program include:

- **BHSU – Hannah Burt; Dr. Urla Marcus, PI & supervisor**
- **DSU – Jack Thompson; Dr. Ben Jones, PI & supervisor**
- **NSU – TBD; JoEllen Lindner, PI & supervisor**

(Continued)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Information and Discussion.

- **OLC – Staci Eagle Elk; Ade Oredein, PI & supervisor**
- **SDSMT – Kaylynn Two Bulls; Jesse Herrera, PI & supervisor**
- **SDSU – Jill VanDamme; Dr. Laurie Nichols, PI; Dr. Keith Corbett, supervisor**
- **USD – Michael Suing; Dr. Kim Grieve, PI & supervisor**

The Project Director has been providing direction to meet grant compliance, holding monthly conference calls with campus PI's and bi-weekly calls with all Advisors to help ensure fidelity across campuses. Two trainings have been held – one in March and one in May – to provide resources for grant staff and to further enhance fidelity of implementation across all institutions. During the May meeting in Pierre and the June conference call, discussions surrounding sustainability were addressed. Institutional PI's discussed the: 1) importance of fidelity in implementation for evaluation and sustainability; 2) understanding how to articulate the return on investment should these student populations see increases in retention and on-time credit accrual; and 3) and how that return on investment leads to increased resources that can be allocated to efforts that continue essential interventions after the end of grant funding. Higher rates of fidelity in implementation lead to lower rates of variability between campuses making it easier to advocate for funds at the system level.

Jump Start Working Groups

Work Groups for Summer Bridge and Earn & Learn were created during the December BOR meeting and committee members continue to meet and are developing recommendations and guidance for each campus. Updates are as follows:

Summer Bridge Work Group

- Minimum of 2 credits/1 course – whichever is greater, Average of 5 credits, and Maximum of 7 credits
- Minimum of 2 weeks and Maximum of 5 weeks in length
- Courses offered may include Developmental and/or General Education: specific courses are determined by each campus
- Financial Literacy embedded in some courses, but not on all campuses, therefore, must be offered through other resources during summer transitional activities; LLC's, related pre-orientations and general welcome week activities must be coordinated and scheduled to facilitate integration of Jump Start students into areas across campus
- Career Exploration and Readiness will also be part of each campus Summer Bridge experience. As with Financial Literacy, some campuses have this embedded in freshmen success seminars and some will offer as workshops and programs outside the academic classroom.

Earn & Learn Work Group –

- Summer 1:
 - a. Career Exploration – course(s) and/or career interest survey (on-line programs/products via Career Centers)
 - b. Financial Literacy – for campuses without financial literacy embedded into curriculum offered during the summer, consider Consumer Credit Counseling Service – http://www.lsssd.org/financial_services/consumer/; Great Lakes Education Services and SLFC in Aberdeen, Wells Fargo, or other resources
 - c. Job Readiness Skills acquisition – time management, resume writing, interviewing, communications etiquette
- Summer 2 and 3:
 - a. FAFSA must be completed prior to Summer Session to determine Work Study eligibility
 - b. Enroll in 6 credits for Work Study eligibility
 - c. Report tuition assistance (potential from Great Plains request) to FA offices
 - d. Courses include for-credit engaged learning/community project courses, credit-bearing internships, on-line courses as well as traditional courses
- Next meeting TBD – after Great Lakes Foundation and Bush Foundation update

Recruitment, Evaluation and Outcome Development

The new website for SD Jump Start went live May 15, replacing the current webpage which is housed on the BOR site. RIS, BOR staff, and the Project Director continue to add and refine information available to prospective students. Staff at RIS have also developed processes in conjunction with campuses to track cohorts in both Colleague and Starfish. SD Jump Start staff will be trained and be responsible for ensuring accuracy and tracking of cohorts once students enroll on campuses.

ICF International, the external evaluators, continue to move ahead with both the required evaluation plan that is due to the U.S. Department of Education by July 8, 2015, as well as scheduling telephone interviews with the Access Advisors in early June and a first round of selected on-campus visits with Jump Start Advisor interviews for the week of August 10–15, 2015. Participating in the Project Directors' meeting in Washington, DC, in March, ICF International worked with the Program Director to refine and clarify the essential interventions and desired outcomes for the grant. A fidelity instrument is being developed to ensure that all Jump Start Advisors provide minimally defined comparable services and activities for and with their students. This was further refined during the May training in Pierre, and will be vetted with ICF International and the Program Officer.

Currently, the grant program has two primary outcomes including: 1) an increase in student persistence from first year to sophomore year from an average of 65% for the populations served, to 75% (comparable to all first-time students); and 2) on-time credit accumulation at the end of the freshman year (30 credits) and sophomore year (60 credits) for participating students (to include credits obtained during summer Earn & Learn components). A number of secondary outcomes have also been identified and include increase applicant and enrollment of target schools, first to second year retention, and American Indian student retention. Additional secondary outcomes identified as being of interest following the Program Officer meeting¹ in Washington DC March, 2015 include: 1) Participation in the Earn & Learn component; 2) Participation in Living Learning Communities; and 3) Accessing Lending Libraries.

¹ During the March Program Officer meetings it was emphasized that efforts should be made to streamline the program where feasible – yet provide the critically important student success elements necessary to achieve positive outcome(s). Institutional PI's have sought to accomplish this by focusing on: 1) connection with Access Advisors; 2) participation in Summer Bridge; 3) participation with Jump Start Advisors throughout year 1 & 2; and 4) participation in Summer 2 & 3 Earn & Learn. While the grant serves both low-income and American Indian students, the federal funding entities (FIPSE/Department of Education and the Office of the President) are particularly interested in results for American Indian students and expect us to report those discreetly as well as in the aggregate used to meet What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) standards.

**South Dakota Jump Start
Enrollment Update
June 5, 2015**

The South Dakota Jump Start grant continues to work to enroll American Indian and low-income (Pell-eligible) first-time students into the 2015 Summer Bridge and subsequent 2015-2016 academic year. The grant itself is dealing with the challenges of a late start in terms of enrollment activities. Funds were awarded in October; Access Advisors (recruiters) began the week of Thanksgiving and with holidays and high schools closed the latter half of December, began outreach activities in January 2015. Jump Start Advisors were scheduled to start in February; however, several campuses were unable to hire that quickly and had starts as late as the end of March. One campus had to rehire with a June start.

Students being targeted for the program are largely first-generation students and students who were not necessarily planning to attend college. This group is what is commonly referred to as “late-deciders” which means they often make decisions about college attendance well after typical first-year students. Many of the students who will be part of SD Jump Start are making that decision in April, May and June. Some would be making the decision in July were it not for the time constraints of a Summer Experience that begins in late July on most BOR campuses. Awareness of this timeframe is reflected in Oglala Lakota College’s decision to hold their Summer Experience on August 10, giving students until July 29 to register.

Access Advisors are working with the individual campuses’ Jump Start Advisors, Admissions and Financial Aid staff, as well as New Student Orientation/Registration staff to obtain information about additional students (primarily Pell-eligible, accepted or applied students) to continue the enrollment push for SD Jump Start. Current enrollment numbers are as follows:

Status	BHSU	DSU	NSU	SDSMT	SDSU	USD	OLC
ACC/signed agreement	14	8	24	9	20	29	NA
ACC/unsigned	15*	17*	4	1*	26*	31*	NA
APP/signed agreement	1	1	5	1	2	2	NA
APP/unsigned	1	0	0	1	11	18	NA
Prospect/signed agreement	4	0	0	0	4	0	NA
Prospect/unsigned	6	0	6	0	26	19	NA

*Schools have identified/provided information about additional ACCEPTED students who are Pell-eligible – these students are being contacted by Access and Jump Start Advisors (numbers are available to individual campus Presidents)

OLC’s Jump Start Advisor, Director of Enrollment Management/grant PI and Access Advisors are working with outreach and registration efforts at all 11 centers and anticipate approximately 70 students will enroll in SD Jump Start