Strategies to Strengthen Academic Success Among High School Students Interested in Pursuing Nursing as a Career

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Background

• The College Preparation Intervention Program (CPIP), a statewide grant program supporting Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)
• Collaboration between Maryland’s high need local education agencies (LEA) and higher education institutions
  • Raises the level of academic preparedness of economically and environmentally disadvantaged students
  • Enables students to attend, persist, and succeed in college
  • Provides financial support

Program Description

Preparing English, Math and Science Scholars (PEMSS) Program
• An academic support model that is scalable across the State of Maryland Career Technology Education Allied Health Programs
• Hands-on application through clinical-based interactive instruction and external practical work-based opportunities

Ready for College Program (RFCP)
• Engages students in real world applications of math and science through simulations and workshops
• Exposes students to commuter and residential collegiate experiences
• Enhances leadership skills and employability

Objectives

• To prepare the next generation of health professions students prepared for college matriculation or health industry employment
• To develop leadership and soft skills of GEAR UP students
• To increase the pool of qualified applicants for nursing programs

Implementation

• Two-week college readiness summer camp at the University of Maryland School of Nursing and Salisbury University
• Weekly face-to-face interactive enrichment classes for Edmondson-Westside and Frederick Douglass High School GEAR UP students
  • Facilitated by university faculty and contracted certified STEM and 4H educators
  • Self-paced modules to improve students’ familiarity and confidence with test taking skills
  • Interactive leadership, employability and soft skill development
• Shared learning experiences at Morgan State University (classroom observations, didactic and clinical skill preparation for code management)
• Tours of urban and rural Maryland colleges and universities
• Technology-based professional development for high school instructional staff
• Family engagement workshops on financial literacy and FAFSA completion
• Transitioned to virtual sessions via Blackboard Collaborate in March 2020

Challenges and Solutions

Overall Challenges
• Late arrival and inconsistent school and class attendance
• Delayed sharing of student data required for planning
• Limited opportunities to engage parents relative to dual enrollment, advanced placement courses and college, career and employment options
• Lack of student awareness and readiness for advance placement and dual enrollment courses
  Edmondson-Westside
  • Mandatory selection of CTE program at the end of 9th grade
  Frederick Douglass
  • Inconsistent students, meeting times and location

Solutions
• Formally structured Advisory Board with community, education, government, finance, and industry members
• Update Simulation Laboratories
• Create strategic partnerships
• Secure additional funding for CTE, college readiness and workforce development programs
• Explore scheduling non-graduation requirements as first period classes

References


Notes

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