

Shop Talk Notes

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Learning to Achieve Training - This training is for Adult Ed instructors in Montana and Idaho. The exact location has not been decided yet but may be in Boise, Idaho for one week in July 2011. Date and place will be shared when a decision has been made. All expenses will be paid for up to 10-12 individuals from Montana with dollars from NIFL. Margaret needs to fill out a state application so please submit names of those who would like to attend by the end of the first week in January 2011. Margaret emailed you and information sheet immediately following the Shop Talk.

Career Pathways Technical Assistance Initiative – The second meeting will be held sometime in the spring. Grant money for this meeting is coming from SWIB (State Workforce Investment Board) and is a collaborate effort between Department of Labor and OVAE to talk about adult career pathways in Montana. We will build a model and use it for future pathways. We'll focus on one pathway to begin with. (The health care sector) Margaret Girkins reported on the first meeting in DC and how the pilot at FVCC will proceed. The overall purpose is to support low skilled adults and enhance economic development. The focus will be on jobs based on labor data.

AIM/MABLE Crosswalk-AIM number in MABLE – In November we did a crosswalk with the AIM data base and the MABLE data base to check for dual enrolled students. 31 students appear to be dual enrolled in both AIM and MABLE. Carol checked out all 31 students in MABLE and has narrowed the number down to 11 students that programs will need to address. We are waiting for the AIM staff to give Carol the AIM contacts for each of the district's schools in Montana. Once we have those contact names, Carol will send out an email to the programs that need to check out their dual enrolled students. Data quality staff asked our MABLE programmer to build a field in MABLE to record high school age student AIM number.

PEP Talk Update - Montana has 3,000 logins to the Pep Talk Module and 1,600 students are set up with portfolios. Be sure to look at the Best Practice Book and feel free to share what you are doing with other programs.

Distance Learning – Each year we should receive a new Distance Learning Application but we did not request programs to send in an application this fall. Everyone is busy and the slow economy makes our distance learning work model difficult to implement. Please continue to keep Distance Learning alive in your programs. We have 88 students statewide that are true distance learners that we can report to the feds for the 2009-10 program year. Melinda shared that the new Blackboard basically works the same but is more pleasing to the eye and some new classes have been added. Carol sent out all the information Mary Grott sent to the state office the end of November.

MABLE User's Conference – Renee shared a little of what the agenda will be. Renee and Norene are planning the agenda. **Day 1 you will share your data action plans.** Norene will be posting them on Lincs

so everyone can refer to them prior to the conference. We will have a data demo by Betty/Billings, Melinda/Miles City, and Shirley/FVCC. On Day 2 there will be a discussion of student assessment and where things can be found in Mable. PAI and post testing effectively will also be a discussion item. Day 2 will conclude around 4:00 pm so for those programs that have a long distance to travel home, you may choose to stay the night in Billings and Crowne Plaza assured Carol they have plenty of rooms in the event the roads are bad. **Homework: Please plan to share an overview of your data quality plans, successes and challenges.**

GED Initiative – Two meetings were set up by a core team from Youth Council, subcommittee of SWIB. Meetings were held in Billings on December 14 and in Butte on December 16. There was a diverse group of individuals and a good cross section of people from HRDC, job service, youth challenge, OPI, Department of Labor and Higher Ed. The group is targeting a launch date in spring 2011 and has some marketing materials and brochures to send out at the launch. This will help economic development and let potential GED students know they can be a success story. It is important to know that the GED is not competing with a high school diploma but is targeting those students who need a second chance. Breakout sessions gave the group time to brainstorm how to use the marketing materials, what role they can play with other partner agencies and share ideas that can assist getting our youth motivated to attain a high school credential. Jerry Guay reported that the Billings meeting was effective because of the diverse audience.

GED Options – Superintendent Denise Juneau endorses the GED Options and has created a Graduation Matters video which was shown at the GED Initiative meetings in Billings and Butte. A core state team had a conference call with the 7 big schools in Montana on December 15 to discuss the options application. A task force will be formed after January 1, 2011 to begin the application process.