

Increasing Opportunities for High School Students

Portage College Board of Governors' Day of Collaboration & Conversation

December 1, 2016



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The Partners



LAKELAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
BETTER EDUCATION...*It's as simple as that! C'est vrai!*



Northern Lights
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Aspen View
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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What Initiated The Partnership?

- Alberta Education states in their Inspiring Action on Education document that “Community resources should be more fully engaged to support learners, including expertise, facilities, services and learning opportunities. Community resources – whether local, provincial, national or global – should actively participate in the education of learners.”
- If we want to prepare students for the 21st century, we need to increase the authenticity and value of public schooling for our students...where authentic achievement involves the challenge of producing, rather than reproducing. Our students develop confidence through hands on, authentic activities and choose to stay in school.
- The partnership allows students to participate in authentic, postsecondary experiences therefore making the transition to college after high school graduation less stressful for our students.

The Partnership Evolution

- Many meetings were, and continue to be held, between key personal from the college and the school divisions.
- Even though some of the people within the partnerships have changed the new people involved embrace the learnings and are forging forth with new initiatives.
- The concept of “experiment” is being used rather than “pilot”. An experiment is planned, executed, analyzed, adjusted, then planned, executed, ...

How Did We Measure Success Of The Projects for all Partners?

- ▶ High school students enrol in multiple college courses, one semester after the next.
- ▶ The overall number of high school students enrolling in these college opportunities increases over time.
- ▶ Course completion rates continues to remain high.
- ▶ Scholarships received from high performance in their college course continues to increase.
- ▶ The number of students enrolling at Portage College, after they graduate from high school, continues to increase.

Some of The Partnership Projects

- ▶ Accounting Technician– JAWS students were able to take CTS courses in high school that allowed for advanced credit when they came to College.
- ▶ EMR – students were taught by a former College instructor in the high school in a cohort. The College’s curriculum was used and oversight provided. Exams and labs were completed at the College and parchments granted. College of Paramedics subsequently changed entrance requirements. No longer available for under 18 and without a class V drivers license.
- ▶ Pre-employment Cooking - Boyle School provided all theoretical instruction and lab work during the school schedule and then students came for a two week cooking camp at the College to complete their evaluation for parchment.



Some of The Partnership Projects

- ▶ High school students, with the required entrance requirements, have enrolled in university courses and their tuition cost was waved. Two university courses are Dual Credit: HEED 105: Personal Health & Wellness and ENTR 105: Entrepreneurship.
- ▶ High school students have enrolled in college programs and their tuition cost was waved. Pre-Employment Heavy Equipment Technician
- ▶ Portage College instructors have gone into high school settings and provided training. Welding and Class V Driver Training
- ▶ Portage College has provided curricula that has been used within the high school. Weeds Identification course
- ▶ High school students have been involved with college tours and presentations about college opportunities

What Were Some Challenges We Faced And How We Overcame Them?

Issue:

- Students may struggle with the amount of work involved with college/university courses and may not place enough effort towards course completion.

Solution:

- The key has been a clear line of communication between the partners! Lining up the delivery time and mode of delivery with the needs of the student. FOIP form signature that allows the college to contact key personnel at the high school. Work directly with high school career counsellors to ensure that students who are guided to these opportunities are academically strong and have a goal to attend college upon graduation from high school.

What Were Some Challenges We Faced And How We Overcame Them?

Issue:

- Cost when students must come to College campus
- Funding implications for the running of courses where only high school students are enrolled.

Solution:

- Grouping different schools and divisions together – aggregate cohorts to ensure that there is a minimum cohort achieved.
- Enrolment in existing College courses with no additional instructional requirements



Partnership Learnings and Successes

- ▶ Structured process required to minimize time spent on MOU and implementation
- ▶ Alignment of student timetables and promotion of College courses within school timetables
- ▶ Costs minimization especially for sustainability beyond the grant period
- ▶ Communication on student progress needs structure
- ▶ Key points of contact at the College and within the Schools are required
- ▶ Collaboration requires buy-in at multiple levels in the organizations

Future Partnership Opportunities

An increase in overall collaboration between local School Divisions and Portage College.

- ▶ Explore possibilities for students to participate in experiences for authentic learning in areas such as Culinary Arts, Welding, Practical Nursing, Cosmetology, and Natural Resources.
- ▶ Integrated professional development opportunities and collaboration for staff such as Chef or Welder for a Day where there is networking and enhancing knowledge transfer that will be applied in classrooms.
- ▶ Develop some local skills competitions with Portage College participation such as Iron Chef Challenge.
- ▶ Increased awareness and collaboration between for events and celebrations to share activity and awareness campaigns such as Remembrance Day, The Road to Hope, Orange Shirt Day ...
- ▶ University Studies - More grade 12 students register for Fall 2017.



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These opportunities built my confidence.
These are great electives to have available.
These courses increased my engagement.
There is a lot of hands-on learning involved.



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