

WISCAPE



Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education

New Approaches to College Access, Persistence, and Success: Three Exemplary Postsecondary Opportunity Programs in the Midwest

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Overview

- Defining Postsecondary Opportunity Programs
- Three Exemplary POPs
 - Illinois Promise
 - All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship
 - Campus and Community: Together for Good
- Lessons Learned

Defining “POPs”

To be classified as a POP, a program must:

- 1) Have dedicated funds
- 2) Be need-based, need- and merit-based, or universal
- 3) Provide or facilitate non-monetary benefits
 - Precollege support services
 - College knowledge
 - Guaranteed enrollment at a postsecondary institution
 - College support services

Three Exemplary Programs

- **Illinois Promise:**

Commitment to continuous improvement

- **All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship:**

Leveraging existing resources

- **Campus and Community:**

Creating an innovative model



Illinois Promise

- Designed to increase access to the UIUC for high-achieving, low-income students (2005)
- Top-level support



Illinois Promise

- Benefits cover tuition, fees, room and board, books, and supplies
- Funded by combination of federal support, state funds, institutional resources, and individual and corporate donations
- Serves 620 students in 2009-10
 - 67% are first-generation



Illinois Promise

Promising Aspect: Commitment to
continuous improvement

1) Student support services

- Began 2008
- Support beyond financial aid



Illinois Promise

Promising Aspect: Commitment to
continuous improvement

2) Rigorous evaluation

- Use of appropriate comparison groups
- Helps internal development



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Your Financial Aid Connection

All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship

- Emerged as gubernatorial campaign plank to provide more college aid to Iowa students (2007)
- Developed within Governor's office and Iowa College Student Aid Commission



All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship

- Priority for TRIO students
- One-year scholarship equal to tuition & fees at Iowa's public colleges
- Funding from Iowa's general fund
- 820 students in first two years, \$3.9 million in aid



All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship

Promising Aspect: Leveraging existing
resources

- 1) Capitalizing on experience and expertise
 - Managed by College Student Aid Commission



All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship

Promising Aspect: Leveraging existing
resources

2) Building on TRIO and relying on FAFSA

- Leverages existing non-monetary support
- Streamlines award and application process

Campus and Community



- Partnership between Finlandia University and Hancock Public Schools – Hancock, Michigan (2009)
 - Scholarships to the next 12 graduating classes from HPS
 - Capital resources transferred to Finlandia



Campus and Community

- Finlandia waives tuition balance due (after federal aid) for HPS graduates
- 26 students participating in first year (more than half of the 2009 class)



Campus and Community

Promising Aspect: Creating an innovative
model

1) Unique program structure

- Innovation to solve multiple problems



Campus and Community

Promising Aspect: Creating an innovative
model

2) Focus on community development

- Expanding 4-year college access
- Keeping kids local for an educated workforce
- Prioritizing education within community



Three Lessons

- 1) Continuously improve through adaptability and self-assessment
- 2) Increase efficiency and avoid redundancy by leveraging existing services and agencies
- 3) Consider innovative models that break from common structures

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