

## **Veterans Higher Education Affinity Group Meeting**

### **McCormick Foundation and CAEL**

**September 8, 2014**

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **Introduction**

The thirteenth meeting of the Veterans Higher Education Affinity Group was held on September 8, 2014 at Joliet Junior College. There were 10 attendees, including representatives from eight colleges and programs serving the Chicago area. A full list of attendees is provided at the end of this summary.

#### **Joliet Junior College Veterans Program**

Cheryl Hlavac, Veterans Coordinator Joliet Junior College (JJC), presented an overview of JJC's program for veterans. Cheryl's presentation included the program's structure, student veteran population breakdown, and on-campus veterans' support. JJC created a veteran's advocate program for faculty and staff. All members who attend the training take a pledge to support the veteran community on campus and receive a decal to post in their office. JJC actively uses the Starfish, a retention solutions program, as an early alert academic intervention which also includes kudos for a student who is doing well. JJC's new veterans center will have host a grand opening on September 17 at 1 pm.

#### **Introductions and Member Updates**

Robert Morris University and Joliet Junior College are now ready to begin working on their individualized reports which will commence over the next several weeks.

#### **CMG: Create a Vision, Make the Case, Get it Done Update**

Robert Morris University and Joliet Junior College are now ready to begin working on their individualized reports which will commence over the next several weeks.

#### **Commercial Club Collaboration**

Amy Sherman, CAEL, provided details on the joint VHEAG and Commercial Club held on August 7. Of the members present at today's meeting, JJC and National Louis University attend the event and talked about their perspective of the meeting.

After discussion on creating intentional partnerships, it was determined CAEL will gather data from the schools to create a profile booklet to share with the Commercial Club members at August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### Faculty Training Update

Amy and Cindy reported on the outcomes of the train-the-trainer sessions throughout Illinois for the IJF faculty training initiative. The sessions were attended by almost 50 institutions with over 100 participants. The materials for the sessions were created to allow the schools to customize the materials to their institution's needs. Overall, the training reviews were positive. An online recorded version of the training is scheduled to be completed by the end of the summer. If there is sufficient interest, another session or two may be done in the future.

### New Directions

Amy

### Open Mic

Julia Jenkins from Northwestern brought up the new version of the DOD MOU. Several schools were still reviewing the document and not sure if they were going to sign it. Cindy stated she had an interpretation of the changes and a link to the FAQ which she will send to the group.

### Next Steps

- Haydee will send the group the information on the September 22 event.
- Paul will forward Cindy
- CAEL will host the next meeting on November 20 at 11 am.

### Meeting Attendance

Name	Institution
Linda Owens	Benedictine University
Amy Sherman	CAEL
Cynthia Rathunde	CAEL
Ryan Frey	College of Lake County
Haydee Nunez	DePaul University
Paige Vanderhyden	Joliet Junior College
Cheryl Hlavac	Joliet Junior College
Paul Knudtson	National Louis University
Roman Ortega Jr	Lewis University
Megan Everett	McCormick Foundation