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Innovation Lab Fall Newsletter

Innovation Lab

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A Note from the Leadership Team

Welcome to our very first newsletter!

As a leadership team, we are proud to share the great work happening with the Central Falls/Rhode Island College Innovation Lab. Deep in our third year, we continue the work of helping our communities grow and learn in creative ways. While we have many projects happening, this newsletter highlights a project that started small but has grown exponentially. This project exemplifies the complexity of the partnership by including many people from many areas. What started as a great idea, help kids get into college, has blossomed to conditional admissions. Not simply an acceptance letter, the project now includes multiple programs to support students, families and teachers to help students succeed in college. Our team is proud of the continued work of all and look forward to sharing our successes and growths through this newsletter.

Project Highlight: Conditional Acceptance

In June 2015, half of the rising senior class members from Central Falls High School received letters granting conditional admission to Rhode Island College. These 88 students were selected based upon their academic performance in ninth through eleventh grade. As a condition of acceptance, each student must take the SAT or ACT and complete a Rhode Island College application. Each student must also receive a certificate of reliability from CFHS during the first quarter of his or her senior year, and each must graduate high school with the same or higher grade point average than the G.P.A. reported at the time of conditional acceptance. As members of the conditional admit cohort, students are afforded opportunities for supports with college application, early enrollment courses (taught at the high school), parent education to support their child’s educational goals, and campus supports for long-term college completion. (Continued)
Conditional Acceptance is one of the most exciting initiatives offered through the Central Falls and Rhode Island College Innovation Lab. We talked to the leaders of this project, Dr. Amy Burns, Director of Transformation for the Central Falls School District, and Dr. Ron Pitt, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Rhode Island College, about how this initiative started and why it is important.

"Last year Dr. Amy Burns came forward with the idea that students from Central Falls High School may be conditionally accepted to Rhode Island College before they finish their high school," explained Dr. Pitt. "At the time, we already had mechanisms in place to provide conditional admission. After several discussions with the Director of Admissions at RIC, the idea became very concrete."

"For me, helping Central Falls students plan their futures is the biggest inspiration," says Dr. Amy Burns. "Building a bridge from high school to higher education has always been an aim for the partnership." By implementing an initiative which couples early admission for half the junior class with multiple layers of support, the Innovation Lab seeks to create new pathways to college completion.

Dr. Burns and faculty members from Rhode Island College have developed a series of programs and courses to keep the students on track throughout their whole senior year. Central Falls high school has offered the students to keep their Chrome books if meet the requirements. The collaborative efforts from the Rhode Island College, messaging from the superintendent, the principal, and the teachers, as well as the supports from the parents are critical in this comprehensive initiative.

"The project meant to be a source of inspiration to help every student to transition to the college level." Dr. Pitt added. “We hope that all the students who have been conditionally admitted will be able to go to college. We want to create a model that can be replicated every single year.”

Innovation Lab in the News

Check out article on Providence Journal here:

http://www.providencejournal.com/article/20150609/NEWS/150609310

Click here to see the article: http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/college_bound/2015/07/rhode_island.html
LEARN MORE ABOUT INNOVATION LAB

Go to: RIC/CF Innovation Lab Official Website:

https://www.ric.edu/innovationlab/

SUBMIT YOUR PROJECT

Having an idea? We can help you develop it into a great project!
Submit your project here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SHU8I7eS4Uiyz86rsVbVU152YCbk7yGohk5cT4mLtQ/viewform?c=0&w=1

A FILM ABOUT THE INNOVATION LAB

Watch a film about the Innovation Lab here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATTxaFBZoBQ