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LEARNING LOG
TBR and Competency Based Education (CBE) Initiatives

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DETAILS

MAKING IT WORK, UNDERSTANDING WHAT WORKS, AND SHARING WHAT WORKS

TITLE

TBR and Competency Based Education (CBE) Initiatives

SOLUTION🛈

Redesigned Planning Advising and Student Services

CAPACITIES🛈

Leadership & Culture;Information Technology;Institutional Research

Owner

👤 Randy Schulte (/education/s/profile/00536000003Bij5AAC)

Record Type

Monthly-Current 2017

INSTITUTION

Tennessee Board of Regents

REFLECTION

SITE INITIATIVE🛈

The TBR Office of Academic and Student Affairs has been engaged in a Frontier Set-supported multi-state initiative called the Southeast CBE Regional Innovation Partnership (SCRIP). TBR has participated in this partnership since April 2016. The purpose of this collaboration has been to identify and address perceived obstacles for the expansion of CBE programs presented by our regional accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The outcome is a report, EXPANDING CBE COURSE CREDIT PROGRAMS: BEST PRACTICES FOR ACCREDITATION, which was formally presented at the UNC CBE Summit 2017 Conference, Chapel Hill, May 25, 2017. This is especially pertinent to the TBR Completion Agenda as we anticipate CBE programs being expanded and developed to respond to an influx of adult students prompted by the Tennessee Reconnect Act.

PROGRESS TOWARD STUDENT SUCCESS🛈

The SCRIP initiative was a product of a collaborative initiative proposed at the University Presidents & Chancellors Convening in Phoenix, March 2016. This proposal was to explore the challenges faced by CBE programs especially considering regional accreditation issues was crafted by representatives of the TBR, University System of Georgia, University of North Carolina system, Wake Technical College and Miami-Dade College. A team from each participating organization met in person and by conference call multiple times over the ensuing 14 months. Meetings included representatives from SACSCOC for input and review. A final document was prepared and presented at the CBE Summit on May 25, 2017 at Chapel Hill, NC. The collaborative SCRIP team functioned cohesively and with a great deal of interaction. The focus on implementation of CBE programs was augmented by having two colleges and one system in the group who are in the process of actual implementation of new CBE programs. Their shared experiences grounded our work in the real world of CBE programming, and provided both examples and resources (including personal networks of inestimable value). At the TBR, we included representatives from our TN eCampus staff and from our Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology staff on our in-house team as these are two key areas for CBE development and articulation.

IMPACT🛈

The SCRIP team addressed the obstacles inherent in current SACSCOC policies – particularly the Direct Assessment Competency Education Programs policy. Because this policy addresses only direct assessment and hybrid CBE models, there was much confusion about CBE programs that were credit-hour based. Also, SACSCOC Comprehensive Standard (3.7.1) and Guideline on Faculty Credentials were problematic when applied to the role of faculty in a CBE program. By developing in-depth definitions of terms and crafting thorough discussions of both Direct Assessment and CBE Course Credit models, a new level of clarification of what CBE means and especially how institutions can frame CBE programs within accrediting body parameters was made possible. The collaborative SCRIP team functioned cohesively and with a great deal of interaction. The focus on implementation

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INTERNAL/EXTERNAL RESOURCES ⓘ

Resources external to the TBR who are all Frontier Set partners include the following: From the University System of Georgia: Jon Sizemore, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Distance Education; Rob Anderson, Vice Chancellor for Educational Access & Success; Myk Garn, Assistant Vice Chancellor for New Learning Models; Marci Middleton, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs; Ed Rugg, Accreditation Consultant & Reports Editor. From the University of North Carolina - General Administration: Michele Solar, Director of Competency-Based Education & Assessment; Kimberly Van Noort, Vice President for Academic Programs; Junius Gonzales, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. From Miami-Dade College: Jacqueline Hill, Associate Provost, Academic Affairs; Lenore Rodicio, Executive Vice President & Provost; Eduardo Padron, President. From Wake Technical Community College: Stephen Scott, President; Sandy Dietrich, Vice President & Chief Academic Officer. Also from the SACSCOC Office: Michael Johnson, Senior Vice President & Chief of Staff; Larry Earvin, Vice President; and Kevin Sightler, Director of Substantive Change.

NEXT CRITICAL STEPS ⓘ

The next steps that we will take are as follows: 1) identify current effective CBE models in the TBR system that might be scaled especially using our TCAT models as a basis for expansion; 2) analyze the potential of existing programs especially those suitable for adult learners and for enhancing workplace skills and credentials for CBE program development; 3) encourage new CBE program exploration throughout the TBR system.

OPPORTUNITIES/CHALLENGES ⓘ

A significant opportunity for exploring CBE as a viable model for adult learners is upon us with the passage of the Tennessee Reconnect Act, which will provide a "last dollar" scholarship for essentially all adult learners who do not already hold a college degree. However, given the Fall 2018 start date of this scholarship, preparations for marketing, outreach, advising, enrolling and registering a potentially sizeable increase in the adult student population, may spread resources for developing CBE programs thin.

QUESTIONS/REQUESTS ⓘ

☐ What successful experiences have you had with CBE programs?
☐ What has been the role of business and industry stakeholders in the development of CBE programs at your institution?
☐ With what advising interventions have you experienced success with adult students?

STATUS

Final

Completion Date ⓘ

5/30/2017

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