

1 Project Compass...

Prospective Grantee Conference

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

2 Welcome...

- *Project Compass*
– Glenn Gabbard
- *Nellie Mae Education Foundation*
– Nick Donahue
- *New England Resource Center for Higher Education*
– John Saltmarsh

3 Conference Goals...

- *To review the aims and goals of Project Compass*
- *To outline the structure of the proposed initiative*
- *To refine the request for proposals based on input from potential applicants*
- *To meet and share ideas about retention and student success initiatives across New England*

4 Agenda for Today...

5 Project Compass. Overview.

- ***An opportunity to chart new courses and establish new directions for institutional change to retain more underserved students in public four-year colleges across New England.***

6 Project Compass. Overview.

- *Multi-year, multi-institutional regional initiative to help more underrepresented minority students succeed in and graduate from public four-year institutions of higher education.*
- *Designed to focus on public four-year colleges and universities in New England*
- *Institutions anticipating increases in minority student populations in the near future are encouraged to apply.*

7 Project Compass.
Institutional Goals.

- *Support innovative institutional programs and strategies that...*
 - Strive to eliminate achievement gaps
 - Significantly increase academic success, retention, and graduation rates for minority and low-income undergraduate students.

8 **Project Compass.
Systemic Goals.**

- *Support a learning community across funded institutions committed to...*
 - Measurably improving academic outcomes for underrepresented students
 - Changing institutional policies and practices to sustain and expand funded efforts.

9 **Project Compass Priorities.**

- *Primary priority...*
 - Proposals focusing on underrepresented minority students;
- *Proposals designed to serve first generation college students and those from low-income backgrounds will also be considered.*

10 **Project Compass Priorities.**

- *The Foundation is interested in working with institutions that...*
 - 1) Demonstrate a level of readiness to improve retention and graduation rates of minority students, first-generation college students and those from low-income backgrounds, and
 - 2) Are prepared to undergo broad-based, structural change in order to develop the means to sustain and expand these efforts beyond the grant period.

11 **Project Compass Assumptions...**

- *Underserved students provide an important engine for positive institutional change.*
- *In order to anticipate change in the student population, institution-wide change is important.*
- *Cross-institutional collaboration among institutions working on similar issues is an important aspect of encouraging broad-based change in higher education.*

12 **Project Compass Assumptions...**

- *Improving retention of underserved students requires...*
 - Broad/deep structural change
 - Collaboration across units within the institution
 - Time allocated for institutional needs assessment, planning, and capacity building
 - Leadership across multiple levels of the institution is essential to sustaining change.

13 **Project Compass. Structure.**

- *Two part design...*
 - Planning year
 - *3-6 institutions funded at \$100-200K for one year*
 - Implementation years
 - *3-6 institutions funded at \$100-200K for four years*

14 **Project Compass.
Planning Year.**

- *Planning year aimed at helping institutions to...*
 - assess their needs

- build their internal capacity for addressing these needs, and
- engage in structured planning and program development in the form of a proposal for continued support from the Foundation;

15 **Project Compass. Planning Year.**

■ **Planning year supports...**

- Technical assistance
- Learning community meetings
 - **In person**
 - **Virtual**

16 **Project Compass.**

■ **Planning Year.**

- Planning year outcomes...
 - **Institutional portfolio including final proposal to the Foundation for implementation funding; and,**
 - **Four-year implementation grants of \$100,000 to \$200,000 annually for four years to institutions making adequate progress and demonstrating adequate institutional commitment during the planning year**

17 **Project Compass.**

■ **Implementation Phase...**

- 3-6 institutional awards from \$100,000-\$200,000 annually for four years
- Ongoing technical assistance
- Learning Community meetings

18 **Project Compass.**

Quality Indicators...

■ **Respect for Evidence**

- Participating institutions will be expected to supply evidence to support each element of their planning year proposal—from the articulation of the problem to the strategies for addressing the problem, including existing institutional strategies.

19 **Project Compass.**

Quality Indicators...

■ **Leadership on multiple levels with a special emphasis on senior leadership**

- Participating institutions will be expected to constitute a leadership team of key representatives from a range of institutional units with the collective knowledge base, skills and authority to develop, advise and implement the institutional program.

20 **Project Compass.**

Quality Indicators...

■ **Institution-wide engagement**

- Participating institutions will be expected to supply an articulated approach to change appropriate for the institutional type and mission which includes key organizational units and stakeholders within the individual institution.

21 **Project Compass.
Quality Indicators...**

■ ***Evidence of sustainability***

- As participating institutions use the planning year to identify the problem which they will address and the related strategies for responding to the problem, they will be also be expected to articulate how other institutional resources—outside of the grant funds—will assure that any proposed intervention will be sustained beyond the life of the five-year grant period.

22 **Project Compass.**

■ ***Small Group Discussion Questions...***

- Respect for Evidence
- Leadership on Multiple Levels with a Special Emphasis on Senior Leadership
- Institution-wide Engagement
- Evidence of Sustainability

23 **Project Compass. Calendar...**

■ ***Request for Proposals (RFP) issued April 30, 2007***

- Sent electronically to all Presidents, Chief Student Affairs Officers, Chief Student Affairs Officers, and prospective grantee meeting participants
- Posted at www.nerche.org

- ***Proposals Due:*** *June 11, 2007*
- ***Potential Grantees Notified:*** *July 23, 2007*
- ***Final notification of Awards:*** *August 6, 2007*

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