We Can See It From Here: Building Blocks for a Seamless Education System

Travis Reindl
Learning for Life Symposium
Helena, Montana ● January 10, 2009

COMMUNICATION *Works,* L.L.C.
Advancing Good Ideas

What Is Seamless Education?

- Seamless education:
  - Provides multiple "on ramps" and "off ramps" that reach from pre-K through graduate/professional studies.
  - Reaches students who are "in" and "out" of the educational pipeline.
  - Minimizes duplication of effort, attrition, time to diploma/certificate/degree.
  - Maximizes available resources (people, money, information).

COMMUNICATION *Works,* L.L.C.
Advancing Good Ideas

Building Blocks

VISION

POLICY

DATA
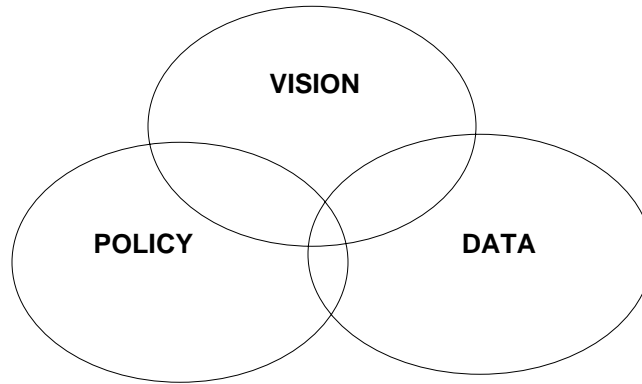
Vision

- Provides a clear and compelling answer to the questions of "Why are we doing this?" OR "What would success look like?"
- Vision is:
  - Concise.
  - Ambitious and grounded in reality.
  - Widely known, widely owned, widely used.
- Vision is <u>not</u>:
  - A strategic plan.
  - A wish list (i.e. full funding).
  - A collection of disconnected goals.

Vision: Case Example

- Five Questions (Kentucky): State develops public agenda for postsecondary education driven by the following questions:
  - Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?
  - Is Kentucky postsecondary education affordable to its citizens?
  - Do more Kentuckians have certificates and degrees?
  - Are college graduates prepared for life and work in Kentucky?
  - Are Kentucky's people, communities, and economy benefiting?
- Each question has measurable goals and progress benchmarks.
- Agenda is the basis of accountability reports, plays a role in planning and budgeting processes.

COMMUNICATION *Works,* L.L.C.
Advancing Good Ideas

5

Vision and Montana

- PEPB Shared Goals:
  - Increase educational attainment.
  - Develop high value jobs and diversify economic base.
  - Improve institutional and system efficiency and effectiveness.
- Possible Next Steps:
  - Fuller integration of PK-12 in goals and accountability measures.
  - Adoption of goals and progress benchmarks.

	Montana	Top States
Preparation		
18-24 Year Olds with a High School Credential	87%	95%
Participation		
18-24 Year Olds Enrolled in College	32%	44%
25-49 Year Olds Enrolled in College	4.5%	8.9%
Attainment		
Adults with an Associate's Degree or Higher	39%	44%

SOURCE: Measuring Up 2008

COMMUNICATION *Works,* L.L.C.
Advancing Good Ideas

6

Policy

- Has two equally important components:
  - Audit: Using vision statement as a guide, assess which aspects of funding and regulation aid progress and which impede progress.
  - Adoption/amendment/deletion: Audit informs policy priorities…What are the unintended consequences of specific policies? Where are policies working at cross-purposes?

Policy: Case Examples (audit)

- Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy (California): reviewed major policies in California Community College System to assess role of policy in low student success and degree completion rates (*Rules of the Game*, 2007).
- What they found:
  - *Few* barriers to access (minimal entrance requirements, low fees, fee waivers, enrollment-based funding).
  - *Many* barriers to success (finance system incentives, expenditure restrictions on student support services, human resource restrictions, lack of clarity on readiness standards).

Policy: Case Examples (innovation)

- Early Assessment Program (California)
  - CSU partners with K-12 system to gauge college readiness of 11th grade students (piggybacking on existing statewide assessment); students with deficiencies receive targeted support in 12th grade.
- New Century Scholarship (Utah)
  - Provides award covering 75 percent of tuition costs for bachelor's degree at public universities to students completing an associate's degree while enrolled in high school.
- Early College High Schools (160 schools in 24 states)
  - Blends high school and postsecondary programming to provide opportunity for at-risk and underrepresented students to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and 1-2 years of transferable college credit. (North Carolina New Schools Project is one of the national leaders in this movement.)
- Widening Participation Programme (England)
  - Postsecondary institutions receive funding premium for enrolling students from disadvantaged regions, plus additional premiums for student progress toward completion.

9

Policy and Montana

- PEPB Policy Priorities (K-12/postsecondary collaboration):
  - Increase participation in dual enrollment/Advanced Placement.
  - Expand outreach to at-risk/disadvantaged students.
  - Increase high school graduation rates.
  - Reduce remedial/developmental coursework.
- Possible Next Steps:
  - Fuller integration of PK-12 (e.g. course-taking).
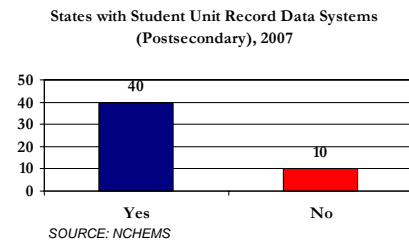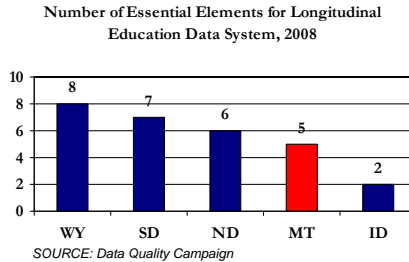 - Policy audit.

10

Data

- Needs and expectations are growing faster than resources, which demands strategic investment.
- Strategic investment requires data that:
  - Measure inputs *and* outcomes *and* the relationship between the two.
  - Cross institutions and sectors.
  - Follow the student.
- Data capacity is only half the battle; using data in decision-making is the taller order.

11

Data: Case Examples

- Florida K-20 Education Data Warehouse
  - Extracts and integrates data from existing systems (K-12, community colleges, universities, workforce development, student assessment); provides capability to track students over time and across delivery systems.
- California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS)
  - Consortium that collects and shares data on student demographics and transitions, course enrollments and student grades, and student achievement; information provided to faculty and administration to assess and improve curricula and instructional strategies.
- Texas PK-16 Public Education Information Resource
  - Cross-agency data system that provides information on graduates at all levels, high school to postsecondary progression, postsecondary admissions and enrollments, and sources of certified teachers.

12

Data and Montana

- Current Picture:
  - Montana is making progress on the number of essential elements of a longitudinal education data system.
  - But…Montana lacks a student unit record data system for postsecondary education.
- Possible Next Steps:
  - Map current data capacity to PEPB goals…do you have the data we need to measure progress?
  - Explore options—and obstacles—for taking the next steps toward a longitudinal data system.

Number of Essential Elements for Longitudinal Education Data System, 2008

WY	SD	ND	MT	ID
8	7	6	5	2

SOURCE: Data Quality Campaign

States with Student Unit Record Data Systems (Postsecondary), 2007

Yes	No
40	10

SOURCE: NCHEMS

COMMUNICATION *Works,* L.L.C.
Advancing Good Ideas

13

Contact

Travis Reindl

State Policy and Campaigns Director

Communication***Works***, LLC

1752 N Street NW, Suite 600

Washington, DC 20036

202.955.9450

treindl@commworksllc.com

www.communicationworks.com

COMMUNICATION *Works,* L.L.C.
Advancing Good Ideas

14