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New Hampshire Preschool Development Grant: Sharing Best Practices

A Report of Pre-Service Professional Development: Higher Education Articulations

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PDG B–5 Sharing Best Practices: Higher Education Articulations

Activity 4: Expand the Number of Articulation Agreements among IHE to Allow for Seamless Movement among Degree Programs

Effective career pathways are made up of portable, stackable credentials—those that move with the individual and build increasing knowledge and skill levels over the course of a career. Portable credentials move horizontally across sectors of our field (child care, Head Start, and early grades) and across states. Stackable credentials build on each other to support upward mobility. Undergraduate degree programs are a foundational credential for a career in early education across the early childhood period of human development, birth through age 8.”¹

There are seven approved articulations between the community colleges and the four-year colleges in New Hampshire based on information provided during the summer of 2019. These are negotiated by faculty and deans, usually with course-by-course equivalency. Information is available at <https://www.nhtransfer.org/transfer-agreements>.

The public two-year and the four-year systems have a dual enrollment agreement whereby a student entering an associate degree program can select a bachelor’s program at a specified institution simultaneously. Upon graduation, automatic acceptance is guaranteed into the bachelor’s program.

At Granite State College, if a student has an associate degree in Early Childhood Education from a regionally accredited college or university, they can apply their associate degree to a bachelor’s with a seamless transition. Through a Transfer Pathway option, all credits from the associate degree transfer to the Bachelor of Science in Applied Studies, Option in Human Services and Early Childhood Development.

Three of the community colleges (Manchester, NHTI, and River Valley) have formal agreements with high school Career Ed programs. Graduates of these high school programs can receive 3, 6, 9, or 12 credits towards their associate degree depending upon what program they complete.

In discussing this topic with the ECE Higher Education Roundtable, faculty indicated a desire to continue discussions and perhaps explore more agreements. Both Plymouth State University and Keene State College have useful templates on course mapping and documentation on the articulation process. There is also an interest in discussing sharing open-source resources and students taking courses at other campuses for their degree requirements.

Barriers

Four-year institutions suggest that many students graduating from a 2-year program want to attend a 4-year program locally. It doesn’t make sense to have agreements with colleges geographically distant. One indicated their enrollments were at capacity, and transfer students were not a priority, due to lack of slots.

¹ Lutton, p.51

Recommendations

The following steps would address the desired outcome:

1. Identify goals for expanding the number of agreements in New Hampshire. (Refer to the article “Early Childhood Workforce: Career Pathway Goals and Strategies for Developing, Improving, and Evaluating Higher Education Articulation Agreements”)
2. Identify the appropriate individuals at each campus and/or system-level with the authority to approve articulation agreements.
3. Convene a series of work sessions to determine the appropriate strategy to meet our goals.
4. Use a template to craft agreements among our institutions.
5. Inform stakeholders of the pathways created and promote to potential and current students.

Existing Articulation Agreements as of August 2019

Colby-Sawyer College with

Lakes Region Community College
New Hampshire Technical Institute
River Valley Community College

Students in Claremont may transfer into a bachelor’s degree program at Colby-Sawyer and finish their undergraduate studies in four years with a minimum guaranteed \$18,000 annual scholarship.

Keene State College with

River Valley Community College
Lakes Region Community College
Manchester Community College

Plymouth State University with

Lakes Region Community College
New Hampshire Technical Institute
Manchester Community College

Granite State College – Career Pathway

CCSNH Associate degree in Early Childhood Education pathway to the Bachelor of Science in Applied Studies, Option in Human Services, and Early Childhood Development. Tracks in Administration & Leadership, Advocacy, Allied Health Services, Child Services, Education Services

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There are no formal articulation agreements between other institutions and the Education Department. Although, there have been discussions with the Community College System of NH.

Sources Cited

Lutton, Alison.” Supporting Successful Degree Completion by Early Childhood Professionals.” NAEYC News, Young Children. November 2013.

National Center On Early Childhood Development, Teaching, And Learning. “Early Childhood Workforce: Career Pathway Goals and Strategies for Developing, Improving, and Evaluating Higher Education Articulation Agreements” nd