



**Mason County Promise Zone:  
Student Success Committee**  
Friday, November 22nd, 2019  
8:00-9:30 AM  
Lakeshore Resource Network

**Student Success Committee Statement of Purpose:** The role of the Mason County Promise Student Success committee is to identify the barriers to college readiness and post-secondary educational success; to help facilitate the coordination of resources to address those barriers; to propose to the Promise Board educational improvement activities or amendments to the Plan to better support the success of our students.

### **Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Vic Burwell, FloraCraft (retired)/G2S Board; Annie Jacobson, WSCC; Jason Jeffrey, WSESD; Jason Kennedy, LASD; Michelle King, Metalworks (retired)/G2S Board; Mark Kinney, WSCC; Andrea Large, Community Foundation for Mason County; Jody Maloney, Promise Zone Coordinator; Jim McLean, Promise Zone Board; Jeff Mount, MCC Schools; Monica Schuyler, Pennies from Heaven Foundation; Paul Shoup, MCE Schools; Jocelyn Teske, WSESD CTE; Joan Vidak, MCC Schools; Lisa Wininger, MiSTEM Network

### **Updates on Promise**

Monica Schuyler updated the group on current Promise Scholarship eligibility requirements, provided a scope of projections for SET capture dollars which will be available to the Promise in 2020, and shared numbers related to the first two cohorts from who started in Fall 2018 and Fall 2019, and application numbers related to the Fall 2020 cohort.

**Discussion:** Vic Burwell indicated that we've got a lot of potential to learn from our current Scholars and those who did not apply, did not succeed, or did not choose to use the Promise to attend WSCC. Ensuing conversation identified that the SSC needs data/research around the following questions:

- Of those who applied for the Promise and went to WSCC and those who did not, what were the reasons for that choice?
- For those in the county that are Promise eligible and didn't go to college: Can we follow up to discover why/why not and whether they've changed their mind?
- Who was retained after 1st year, who graduated, and what were their success strategies?
- Of those who were not retained or did not graduate, what are the reasons?
  - For those who left due to a barrier to success, can the Promise do call backs to see if they plan to start attending again?

- Can we determine how could the Promise help to address/prevent attendance gaps/attrition and other barriers to success?
- What best practices exist in longstanding Promise Zones with similar demographics?

### **Identifying Barriers to Success**

- [College & Career Readiness Survey](#): Please share with your colleagues; the link is found on the Contact Us page on the Promise website: <https://www.masoncountypromise.org/contact-us>
- Parent Student Support Survey Questions: Jody will share the College Board questions with local districts for parents related to creating a college going culture, so that they can compare with current questions to see if the topics are covered..
- Article Discussion: [Getting to college from rural Michigan is tough. Staying is tougher](#)
  - If you had \$200 per student and 2000 hours (a year of work) to give to all of Mason County's students--what action(s) would you take to support their college readiness and success?
  - Discussion
    - Seeing the data related to retention, graduation, articulation, and attrition rates at WSCC and specific to the Promise Scholars will better inform future actions. The Promise Zone plans to do outreach to find out more about past scholars. WSCC does have that data, but cautioned that it doesn't provide a comprehensive picture.
    - Establishing communication with current Promise Scholars through mentoring, peer coaching, phone outreach, check-in postcards, texting service, etc. is a good step forward. Volunteers are willing if roles for them to take action to support students could be defined. FERPA does prevent sharing of names and student info in many cases, but more thought and effort should be put into relationship building with future, current and past Promise Scholars.
    - Having the agency to seek out additional support through Health and Human Services, Housing, etc. can be especially challenging for teenage adult transitioning to independence.
    - An Early Alert program at WSCC could benefit retention and completion, but only if the interventions, referrals and support systems are in place to do so. WSCC has a United Way staff member as a partner to provide wraparound support for students, and is filling a Director of Student Access and Resources position, who may be of assistance to students, but whose primary focus will be supporting students with disability/504 accommodations and academic adjustments.
    - Solutions may already be in place in our County, but research needs to be done to match them up with student success needs.
    - Jason Kennedy suggested helping to fund a WSCC faculty member's doctoral dissertation project if they are willing to do mixed-methods research on the Mason County Promise Zone students. He also suggested to focus efforts on the "bubble" of students with 2.0-3.0 GPAs, as services aimed at that audience could create high impact on outcomes.

- Annie Jacobsen suggested that bridging the new student experience from application or First Year Seminar (FYS) in the senior year of high school to starting classes in the fall of the First Year of college may help students to navigate the transition to college more smoothly and reduce summer melt.
- Multiple participants agreed that using the afternoon of professional development days (“Mason County Promise Days?”), or creating programming on SAT testing day for ALL Seniors to travel to WSCC and meet with an advisor could generate more comfort with college enrollment, registration and navigation processes. Establishing relationships with helpful staff and knowing who and how to ask for help in college navigation could support both access and success.
- Lisa Wininger suggested to ensure that every HS graduate has a well-researched career/college path and a clear plan for the path forward.
- Efforts to expand the First Year Seminar (FYS) pilot between WSCC and Mason County high schools are in process. Mason County Central HS currently has FYS in place, although not all seniors were eligible due because of graduation requirements that needed to be met.
- Proposed changes to Michigan Merit Curriculum allow for more flexibility to individualize how schools meet needs within each HS student’s Educational Development Plan, and the Promise may be able to play a greater role in supporting students if the proposal is made into law. The changes still need advocacy in the Legislature to gain broad-based support.

### **Coordination of Resources**

#### Parent Survey to Understand College Going Culture

- Jody Maloney will share college going culture questions (adapted from College Board’s recommendations) with local education authorities to compare with current parent surveys and see what still needs to be measured, with the goal of gathering data while streamlining surveys.
- Jody will work to assimilate the notes from past meetings with youth and educators to see what aligns with our purpose, identified needs, current services/supports/resources, our ideas for future programming and interventions.

### **Next Meeting**

Please complete this poll to help plan dates for 2020 meetings: <https://doodle.com/poll/bnwfidgn99gafyu4>