

Onondaga Pathways to Careers Demonstration Project at Onondaga Community College



2

Welcome & Introductions

Discussants

- Group!

Facilitate Discussion

- Michael Morris
- Meera Adya



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Others Joining Us

1. Mississippi State CC
2. Gateway Technical College
3. Richland College
4. Kentucky VR
5. Nebraska VR
6. DEI TA Representatives
7. DEI Projects
8. WINTAC
9. ODEP

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Agenda: In-Person Meeting

- Welcome: Meera Adya
- Introductions – New Members: Michael Morris
- Review of Purpose and Lead Project Forming CoP: Michael Morris
- Proposed New Format
- Introducing a New Project
- Reminder of In Person Meeting:
 - Purpose and Goals
 - Structure and Approach
- Next Meeting: Volunteer Project

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Review: Onondaga Pathways to Careers

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Review: OPC Impetus & Model

- Federal Priority:
 - Expand capacity of community college to respond to workforce needs
 - Prepare youth with disabilities with the necessary skills for jobs in high-growth, high-demand industries
 - Promote community-wide partnerships of institutions of higher education, workforce partners, youth-serving agencies, and organizations serving individuals with disabilities
- OPC Model:
 - Partnership between Onondaga Community College (OCC), Syracuse University (SU), Syracuse City School District (SCSD), public workforce system, regional economic development, disability service agents

A Transformational Approach

- Align IEP transition planning with programs and services that support access, completion, and subsequent employment into 4 OPC educational and employment pathways:
 - Syracuse City School District partnership: career awareness, IEP transition planning, early awareness of OPC employment pathways
 - Provide career awareness activities in high schools, support the transition planning process, assist with financial aid application, orientation for all OPC students
 - Early exposure to technical programs through concurrent enrollment courses, Early College partnership with SCSD, and a new school for technology at SCSD

2/24/2016



Key Partners:

- Syracuse City School District
- OCM-BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services)
- Syracuse Educational Opportunity Center provides community-based academic and workforce development programs to adult learners and serves as referral source.
- Local VR
- Local AJC
- Local Disability & Human Service Organizations
- Local Employers & Trade Associations

2/24/2016



What is the OPC Scholars Program?

A program offered by Onondaga Pathways to Careers at Onondaga Community College. The OPC Scholars Program is for current Syracuse City high school seniors with disabilities who are ready to explore their opportunities for the future.

Do you have **technology-related skills** you want to build on?

Would you like the chance to **explore** or even **shadow** a local professional in a **career field** that interests you?

Does the chance to **join** other academically and career-minded **SCSD seniors** in strengthening and exploring opportunities that **promote success** appeal to you?

Need help with your **college applications**?

How about year-long opportunities to establish new **friendships** and **enjoy** Syracuse's social and cultural scene together?

...then the **OPC Scholars** program is for you.



**Be Empowered.
Be an OPC Scholar!**

Email us at
opcscholars@sunyocc.edu
or visit the Scholars page at
SUNYOCC.EDU/OPC
(315) 498-2945



4585 West Seneca Turnpike
Syracuse, NY 13215

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Onondaga Pathways to Careers
for young people with disabilities



Scholars Program

Opportunity + Performance + Confidence



Program Components

COLLEGE PREP:

- Learn about college admission processes (applications, course advising)
- Learn new adaptive technology tools
- College entrance exam prep
- Financial Aid 101

CAREER 101:

- Job shadowing and community service
- Company site visits
- Employability skills

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:

- Special Events
- Conferences

LIFELONG LEARNING SKILLS:

- Budgeting
- Financial planning
- Self-Advocacy
- Disability 101

TO BE ELIGIBLE, YOU MUST:

- Be a high school senior and on track to earn a high school diploma
- Be in good academic standing
- Provide two letters of recommendation from school staff
- Have a documented disability
- Have access to transportation to attend campus and community-based workshops/events
- Be willing to develop and model socially-responsible behavior across settings
- Have a satisfactory record of school attendance
- Have an interest in exploring any of the careers described in this brochure

Examples of OPC Scholar CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:



- Computer Programmer
- Scientific Programmer
- Business Programmer
- Network Support Provider
- Technical Support Provider
- Computer Forensics Investigator
- Web Designer
- Webmaster
- Web Maintenance Provider
- Health Information Technician
- Electrical Engineer
- Electrical Technician
- CAD Drafter
- CAD Designer
- Test Control Technician
- Quality Control Technician
- Mechanical Lab Technician
- Materials Lab Technician
- Machinist
- Machine Operator
- Tool & Die Maker
- Machine Setter



BEFORE YOU DECIDE...

Use the self-assessing questions below to help determine how well your skills and interests align with these careers.

- Do you enjoy analyzing situations, organizing information and tracking details?
- Are you a hands-on person?
- Do you enjoy learning how things work?
- Are you a natural at fixing gadgets?
- Do you like to keep up with technology?
- Do you enjoy working independently?
- Do you have a talent for creating designs?
- Do you enjoy bringing ideas to life and reaching solutions?

If you checked any of these boxes, consider becoming an OPC Scholar.

CoP: Focus for the Next Phase

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CoP Focus and Goals

- We believe:
 - Participants at different levels of implementation of career pathway programs for youth with disabilities have a great deal to offer one another.
- We want to:
 - Bring people together from a diverse range of perspectives who share a common focus on developing successful programmatic strategies to increase employment outcomes in high growth career pathways for youth with disabilities.
 - Share elements of our career pathway and inclusive workforce retraining models and implementation lessons
 - Learn from other programs as they share their model and implementation lessons.
 - Work as a group to solve challenges that arise and learn how to adapt successful or promising practices.

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Meeting New Friends: Introductions

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Please Introduce Yourself!

- Gateway Technical College
- Richland College

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In-Person Meeting: Purpose and Goals?

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Career Pathways Exchange: Purpose and Goals

- To deepen our connections, meet new colleagues, advance our projects, and work together in a collaborative way
- To highlight good work, but also help with challenges
- To develop relationships that continue and facilitate further cross-pollination
- Take home a minimum of one to two new strategies to implement

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In-Person Meeting: Structure and Approach?

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Career Pathways Exchange: Tentative Structure and Approach

DAY ONE

- Focus on theme areas, keyed to some of the Department of Labor's Career Pathways Toolkit:
 - **Element One: Build Cross-Agency Partnerships**
 - **Element Two: Identify Industry Sector and Engage Employers**
 - Element Three: Design Education and Training Programs
 - Element Four: Identify Funding Needs and Sources
 - Element Five: Align Policies and Programs
 - Element Six: Measure System Change and Performance
- SHORT 7-10 minute presentations to the group about
 - one challenge your program is facing and
 - one area in which your program is excelling
 - **** (Meera, Miranda, and others will help you craft your presentations!)**
- Follow-up discussion for 30 minutes with group
 - Solutions to challenges
 - How others can adapt area of excellence
 - How everyone can sustain the strategy for outcomes at individual and system levels
- Wrap-up for 5 minutes

DAY TWO: half-day to share A-HA moments, wrap-up

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In-Person Meeting: Opportunity for Funding?

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Career Pathways Exchange: Opportunity for Funding!

- We have limited travel funding for Community Colleges!
- Each program can apply for funding to travel to the meeting
- If you do not have the original invitation with a form for expressing interest in our upcoming meeting, please let Meera know and we will get it to you ASAP!

madya@syr.edu

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In-Person Meeting: Your Ideas?

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New Members & Resources Are Welcome!

- Please send Meera (madya@syr.edu) recommendations for additional members, especially students and employers.
- Please connect us to any people we should be including in the project.
- Please send us (or point Meera in the direction of) any resources you have or know about that you think we should use.

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Next Meeting: Date & Topic

- Our meeting schedule will be every month, the last Thursday of the month, from 12:00-1:30 EST.
 - So, our next meeting is October 26th, 2017, Noon EST
- Topics to be addressed: Hear from another new member and further planning and discussion regarding the in-person meeting

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