



ACCESS: Transitioning to Career Success

2012 – 2013 Annual Report Executive Summary

ACCESS is a partnership program of the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency, Eastern Iowa Community Colleges, and Area Nine Schools.

The **ACCESS Program** provides transition support to participating **Area Nine School Districts** for students with IEPs enrolling in classes at any of the **Eastern Iowa Community Colleges** (Clinton, Muscatine, Scott). **ACCESS can assist districts** by participating in the transition planning process with the IEP team, providing information about EICCD programs and related career options, helping students connect with college and community services, providing one-on-one assistance to students as they work toward IEP goals, and preparing students to transition to independence in college and/or the workforce.

ACCESS is consistent with the missions of the AEA and the college district.

2012-2013 ACCESS Program Results

Enrollment and Retention

- 18 students from 10 districts
- 71% enrolled in Career and Technical (CTE) programs

Of students requiring additional coursework to complete a certificate or degree, 80% registered for Fall 2013. This retention rate is 36% higher than the Fall 2010 (available report) EICC average.

Completion, Credits and GPA

- **46% certificate-seeking students earned certificate while participating in ACCESS.**
- 88% of credits registered were successfully completed
- Average GPA = 2.45/4.0

77% of students earned a 2.0 or higher cumulative GPA upon ACCESS completion. 58% of EICC new 2011 fall students earned a GPA of 2.0 or higher (4-point scale).

Employment

- **72% self-report employment**
- **Of employed, 31% are in field of study**

The national youth unemployment rate in 2010 was 18.4%, making up 26% of the nation's unemployed workers (Iowa Workforce Development, "The Youth Unemployment Crisis").

2007-2011 Cohort: Long-Term Success

Enrollment and Retention

- Served more than 125 students from 16 high school districts
- Students majored in 33 EICC programs

On average, 70% of certificate and degree seeking students enroll at EICC after ACCESS, and attain 26% better retention than their peers overall.

Completion within Six Years

- 79% of certificate-seeking students have earned a certificate and/or diploma
- 55% of degree-seeking students have earned an Associate's degree

82% of ACCESS completers (Fall 2007-Spring 2013) have either earned a degree or certificate OR are currently pursuing it with EICC coursework.

The state-wide graduation rate in Iowa is 33% (last reported).

Employment

- **53% self-report employment***
- **Of employed, 41% are in field of study**

In May 2013, the Washington Post, using U.S. Census statistics, reported that 27% of college graduates are working in their field of study.

*As students move out of the area and change contact information, data collection includes students who did not return contact. Based on higher employment numbers collected from former ACCESS students who are still in contact, it is likely that more former participants are employed.



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“There are big differences between high school and college disability supports relating to students’ self-advocacy and responsibility. Through advising former ACCESS Participants, I have seen how the ACCESS Program makes a huge difference for students who otherwise may not have been successful in college. The gradual transition with one-on-one support is a key factor in these students’ successes.”

– Jan Weis, M.Ed, Disability Resources at Scott Community College

- The ACCESS Program provides students with a **higher level of support** than they would normally receive from college disability resources, with weekly one-on-one meetings, progress monitoring, and connection to resources at both the high school and in the community as students successfully transition to independence in the college setting.
- The outcome of this support network is that ACCESS students are more likely than their peers to continue their college coursework, to finish degrees and certificates, and to be employed in their field of interest/study.

Additional information about the ACCESS Program can be found on the EICC website:

<http://www.eicc.edu/highschool/highschool/access/index.html>.

The ACCESS Program Manual has been distributed to all school districts; please contact an ACCESS Representative if you would like to request an additional copy. The full 2012-2013 ACCESS Program Annual Report is available by request.

For questions about the ACCESS Program or to invite an ACCESS Representative to your high school, please contact:

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