SENCAP, 2017-18: A Year in Review

The Southeast Nebraska Career Academy Partnership (SENCAP) Program completed its seventh year of serving high school students in our 15-county service area for Southeast Community College, and its ninth overall year of providing career education opportunities for juniors and seniors. SENCAP helps high school students get a “jump-start” on their futures by offering dual-credit courses. It also provides real-life experiences for careers including job shadowing, field trips, mock interviews and resume reviews, and research on various career pathways.

During the past school year, SENCAP had 40 high schools and more than 840 students taking part in our Career Academy Program. These students registered for over 1,400 courses and completed nearly 6,000 credit hours. SENCAP provides ten career pathways and over 60 college courses which count for a student’s program of study and transfers to other colleges and universities. In addition, SCC offers students half tuition for every course providing a huge savings to students and parents.

Now high schools joining SENCAP this year include; Pawnee City, Wahoo Neumann, Sterling, Lewiston, Johnson County Central, Johnson-Brock and Falls City. Next year Conestoga and Auburn will also join us to bring the total number to 47.

SCC and SENCAP are committed to helping students focus on what they want to do after high school and college. When students take college-level courses in high school, they will have a greater likelihood of success in the future.
DC Advantage

SENCAP students are not only enrolled in their career pathway courses, but also the general education requirements needed for their individual programs and completing those courses while still in high school. In the 2016-17 school year, students averaged two SENCAP classes per semester. When paired with a DC Advantage course, students obtained additional credit hours and reduce completion rate of a post-secondary degree.

Lincoln Community Foundation Grant

SENCAP was the recipient of a $5,000 grant from the Lincoln Community Foundation to assist students with tuition and textbook costs for the past school year. Through the grant, SENCAP was able to award 21 recipients with a scholarship. SENCAP hopes to continue to generate grant and scholarship opportunities each year to assist students in financial need.

Special Event Day

The fall of 2017 brought another SENCAP Special Event Day to Lincoln. This year’s event was at SCC’s downtown campus. Criminal Justice was the focused pathway. SENCAP students are encouraged to explore various careers in each pathway and this day provided a more focused approach on one of them.

SENCAP hosted close to 60 students and SCC instructors from the Criminal Justice program planned the day’s events. The day started with a staged disruption from a disgruntled student. SENCAP students were prompted by the need to be observant when witnessing events.

The Law Enforcement and Homeland Security session exposed students to a possible terror threat. Careful observation was required during the crime scene investigation session as students worked with fingerprinting and evidence. The corrections session alerted the students to the serious need of observation when working with inmates and the many aspects of security within a correctional facility.

Student Spotlight

Sara Mitchell, Fairbury High School Health Academy

“I received many benefits by participating in SENCAP. A few of those include learning how to handle a college workload and engaging with college professors and other students. I enjoyed being able to take dual credit courses. SENCAP has allowed me to take many courses that I would not have had the chance to take in high school and I’m grateful for those opportunities.

I have experienced many learning moments through job shadows and field trips. One of the most important experiences for me was the job shadow that allowed me to validate my career choice to be a neonatal nurse.

Caleb Marcoux, Home School CIT Academy

“I have taken 10 courses through SCC as a participant of SENCAP in the CIT Program. I believe the most beneficial aspect of this program is the focus on my future. Being in the class helps me prepare for college and allows me to plan ahead. This is complemented by the career portfolios each semester that push me to prepare for job shadows, mock interviews and resume preparation. The experience of registering for and completing dual credit courses has helped me build self-advocacy and confidence for college.”

In August, I plan to attend Creighton University to work on my bachelor’s degree in nursing. While in school, I will be working as a CNA in either a NICU or PICU at Children’s Hospital.”

Coordinator Spotlight, Kristi Lawrence

“I’ve always enjoyed working with teenagers, especially in non-traditional educational settings. Prior to my role as SENCAP Coordinator, I worked at a Lincoln after-school program. Like SENCAP, this program complemented high school curriculum. Through tutoring, mentoring, field trips, and hands-on experiences, I guided students to graduation. Now as the Northeast SENCAP Coordinator, I built on that experience to provide meaningful opportunities to prepare SENCAP students to be both college- and career-ready.

Two of my high schools have provided a Certified Nursing Assistant Class once a year. One school hosts the class and students from both schools attend. They all share the space and the instructor. This year a new school has joined my region and I am working on coordinating a new and larger space in a central location. Almost all of my schools have utilized The Career Academy at SCC for classes in welding, construction, machining, and culinary. Some plans for future collaborations are welding, AG, business, and new health classes.

It is exciting to see how students benefit from collaboration and opportunities. These opportunities partnered with the SENCAP portfolio assignments provide meaning and insight to each student’s strengths, passions and career interests. SENCAP helps to connect the student’s passion to career and college.”

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