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community college*

 EDUCATION
WITH A
PURPOSE
SENCAP
Southeast Nebraska
Career Academy
Partnership

2017

NEWSLETTER



SENCAP Overview

The 2016-17 school year marks the sixth year the Southeast Nebraska Career Academy Partnership program has been part of Southeast Community College. This career academy program provides the opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to become college- and career-ready in many different ways. Students take dual-credit courses, job shadow, take field trips, research career pathways, prepare resumes, take part in mock interviews,

and connect with professionals from around the state of Nebraska.

During the past school year, SENCAP had 37 high schools from SCC's 15-county service area participate. This includes 810 high school students enrolled in 1,388 courses completing 5,731 credit hours. SENCAP offers nine career pathways and 60 college courses, which count for a student's program of study and/or transfer to other colleges and universities.

Since it started in 2008, SENCAP has grown from 16 participating high schools, with approximately 45 students who were involved with two career pathways (Education and Health), to 37 high schools and more than 800 students involved in nine career pathways with more than 60 college courses to choose from. This growth continues as SENCAP added Nebraska City and Plattsmouth school districts during this year, and will be adding six more high schools starting this fall, including Sterling, Johnson-Brock, Falls City, Lewiston, Pawnee City, and Johnson County Central.

SENCAP continues to search for financial aid for students who can't afford to pay for tuition and books. SCC offers

every student in SENCAP half-off tuition during their two years. In addition, the SCC Educational Foundation offers up to 30, \$500 scholarships to students who are planning to continue their education at SCC. In addition, SENCAP was awarded a \$5,000 grant for 10, \$500 scholarships through the Lincoln Community Foundation for students in Lancaster County.

SCC and the SENCAP program are committed to helping students focus on what they want to do after high school and college. By having students take college-level courses while still in high school and focus on a specific career pathway(s), they will have more opportunities for success in their future.

Coordinator Spotlight



Connie Hood, Western Region Coordinator

Seven years ago, Connie Hood was at the Educational Service Unit #6 at Milford to learn about a tutoring program the ESU was sponsoring. While there, she was introduced to Dr. Randy Nelson, the Career Academies director. A couple days later, Dr. Nelson called her to set up a meeting to discuss possible employment within the Career Academies.

"I instantly became thrilled as I realized that this was a position that fit my interests and skills," Hood said. "What an amazing opportunity I was given!"

When Hood started as coordinator, the high school portion of the Career Academies had a portfolio that was printed and put into three-ring notebooks. The portfolio curriculum is an extension of different SCC classes the students were taking.

"After two more years of handing out notebooks to academy students, it was with great apprehension that we turned out the curriculum totally online," Hood said. "Though the curriculum is revised every year, the main goal of educating and promoting career experiences for high school students still exists. The online work is approached as an extension of what all students do with technology every day."

Hood loves her experiences as a coordinator and says it's extremely rewarding. She loves getting out into the communities and educating them about learning opportunities in southeast Nebraska.

"Along with the rewards this program has given me, the best part of this job is seeing students gain confidence and becoming their own best advocate in decisions they make about their futures," Hood said.



DC Advantage

Dual-credit courses allow students to experience rigorous coursework with an established support network to navigate and succeed in the post-secondary world. DC Advantage had 1,119 students who enrolled in 1,951 courses completing 9,374.5 quarter credit hours for the 2016-17 school year. Many SENCAP students identify a program of study in addition to their general education requirements offered through DC Advantage. By enrolling in dual-credit courses through either SENCAP or DC Advantage, it's decreasing the amount of time students spend working toward a post-secondary degree and overall cost (Dual Enrollment, 2015). SCC offers a 50-percent tuition discount to any high school student participating in a dual-credit course during the 2016-17 school year, and will continue to extend the discount for the 2017-18 school year, providing affordable dual-credit opportunities for area students. To view a listing of the fall DC Advantage courses that will be delivered online, visit our website at <https://www.southeast.edu/online-dc-advantage-courses/>

Special Event Day

Last fall, SENCAP hosted its Special Event Day with a focus on an Academy pathway. This year, the focus was on education. As students began to navigate the expansive field of education, it was important to provide them with a variety of experiences in order to identify an educational focus.

SENCAP coordinated four sites for students to visit: Lincoln High School, Elliott Elementary, Dimensions Early-Childhood Education, and the Lincoln Children's Museum. The variety of opportunities allowed SENCAP students to see how different types of schools and programs operated.

Students returned from the site visits and attended three sessions focused on engaged learning and flipping the classroom. A panel of educational professionals shared their experiences, including extracurricular student organizations and tutoring and coaching. The day provided SENCAP students a first-hand look at a future in education.

Student Spotlights

Madison Criner, Health



Seward High School student Madison Criner enrolled in five dual-credit courses through SCC: Introduction to Psychology, Introduction to Sociology, Basic Essentials to Health Care, Certified Nursing Assistant, and Comprehensive Medical Terminology. Criner said each course offered a different teaching style and prepared her for college in different ways.

“I am very thankful for the opportunity to be able to participate in dual-credit courses during my high school career,” Criner said. “These classes helped prepare me for my upcoming year in college and helped confirm my health care goals of becoming a nurse.”

Criner said the only thing she would change is to take more classes while still in high school.

“These classes have improved my study habits and taught me how to learn the information in different ways,” Criner added.

Caleb Nielsen, Computer Information Technology (CIT)



Caleb Nielsen was in the process of registering for classes for his junior year at Waverly High School. Since he had an interest in computers at the time, he noticed a Computer Information Technology class in the SENCAP program. He enrolled and now has a much greater interest in that field.

“I would recommend the program to other students because it gives you the basic knowledge of whatever it is that he or she is looking to go into,” he said. “The program gives students exposure to possible professions, and it’s helpful because once they have really started to focus on their specific career, they already had exposure to it and will be able to draw upon some background knowledge.”

This fall, Nielsen will be attending Dakota State University in Madison, SD, where he will major in Cyber Operations with a minor in Computer Science. He also will be a member of the football team as a kicker and punter.

Professional Day

Each spring SENCAP hosts an annual Professional Day for each of the academies. As enrollment increases, multiple events have been added throughout the spring to give all students the opportunity to explore careers within their field and take part in a mock interview. Event sessions vary from hands-on activities to learning about employment and volunteer opportunities with companies and civic organizations.

The highlight every year is the mock interview experience. SENCAP students create their own resume and cover letter and are interviewed by a professional in the student’s chosen field. Shortly after, the students receive constructive feedback about how they performed during the interview process and are provided with improvements they can make. In addition to creating a resume, second-year SENCAP students create an online portfolio showcasing what they’ve learned throughout the SENCAP program.



SENCAP honored the Outstanding Regional Students at the event. Winners were: Caleb N., Waverly High School; Shaylee N., Seward High School; Samantha H., Exeter-Milligan; Maddie P., Beatrice High School; Kaili J., Norris High School; Janay W., Ashland-Greenwood High School. (not pictured, Keinna B., Nebraska City High School).

Business Academy in York



Scott Lamberty, SENCAP Instructor, York High School

For the past four years, York High School has offered several different Career Academy courses. Scott Lamberty is the Business instructor at YHS. In his own words, he explains the SENCAP successes in his community.

“Business Career Academy has joined a growing list of successes for us here at York,” he said. “This year finishes the second time through the sequence for us as we offered Management & Entrepreneurship, and next year we rotate back to Intro to Business & Marketing.

“Regardless of which part of the loop our students enter the Business Academy, they are encouraged to decide on a business they would be interested in running. This business is used in each course when we are completing major projects. We have had a variety of business, from retail to restaurants to a dance studio that expanded with gymnastics. Students will use that business in the creation of a Business Plan during Entrepreneurship, as well as a Marketing Plan during Marketing.

Our students have gained great insight through local businesses. Being able to tour the Entrepreneurship Center has allowed our students to gain an understanding of how hard you must work to get your business off the ground. Listening to actual business owners tell students that they regularly put in 70-hour work weeks was eye-opening. They have also learned valuable lessons about how a well-designed, well-run business can thrive in today’s market.

In the past, we have toured Pinnacle Bank Arena, as well as listened to the owners of Raising Cane’s speak about how their business runs. Those tours and speakers

Nebraska City Academies

The community of Nebraska City launched a successful partnership with SENCAP, allowing students opportunities to pursue their hopes and dreams for years to come. The Board of Education and Administration has taken bold steps to achieve this vision. A former grocery store was transformed into a Construction and Technology Academy, creating a facility with top-notch equipment for students.

“Students are able to work in a lab setting and receive credit for SCC Construction while still in high school,” said Clyde Schroeder, a construction instructor with vast experience in the cabinetry field.

“Last semester, students were able to create a custom door out of wood cut from a walnut tree from a local resident. The door included a design cut into the wood using a laser cutter, programmed by the students. The finished product was a one-of-a-kind door that showcases the power and potential of the student. They will continue to develop these skills through this unique program.”

really spark interest from students, and that leads to a lot of well thought-out questions from the group. Students commented how great it was to see how much these businesses support their local communities, and they all felt how important that would be to incorporate into the mission of their own business.

Students also were able to tour Firespring this past fall and Spreetail this spring. I would characterize both as ‘millennial businesses’ for lack of a better term. They are primarily a younger workforce based in the area of technology as both use a lot of graphic design and other new computer technologies to thrive. Students were amazed to see how different and fun those businesses both can be as they saw mostly relaxed business dress codes as well as ‘game areas’ for relaxing and ‘rejuvenating the mind’. So, they work hard, but they also play hard.

As educators, we always look to see what we can improve. We have done this at York High School as we have gained experience with our SENCAP courses. We added several more speakers over the years as we have a variety of local businesses who are all willing to help. Our local banks, as well as York College, have helped students create their business plans. I’m currently looking for local businesses to help with the marketing plans the students will create next year. It’s very important to take advantage of all resources, and we have many in York.

We are taking advantage of the trickle-down effect of the money sent from SENCAP as well. York High School has added equipment for Striv that also aided a newly created Media Production class. We have also taken advantage of opportunities to add Microsoft Office Certifications and started some dual-credit computer courses with SCC. We also are looking to add software to our Accounting II course, and adding a Sports & Entertainment Marketing Course. We may also add online simulations for the Sports & Entertainment Marketing, as well as Hospitality Management.

SENCAP has been a great experience for all involved, and I will be looking for ways to make it even better in the future for the students of York High School. If you have any questions about what it is we do, please feel free to email me at scott.lamberty@yorkdukes.org.”

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Dominic Martacho is a Nebraska City High School welding instructor who also teaches SCC welding courses.

“The students in Nebraska City who participate in SENCAP will avoid the long waiting list to get into SCC’s welding program, since they already have one foot in the door,” Martacho said. “A recent competition was held for welding students in all SENCAP schools. In its first year of competition, the Nebraska City students placed in the top ten! The Welding Academy is another program with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities allowing students to learn and develop the latest skills in the field of welding.”

Students in both academies were able to take field trips to machining manufacturers like Kawasaki, PVS Metals and the Ariens Company to see firsthand what a career in welding looks like.