



PRINCE GEORGE'S  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



# **College Readiness Initiatives at Prince George's Community College**

Dr. Sandra Dunnington  
Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Prince George's Community College  
Largo, MD

# Prince George's Community College

## VISION AND MISSION

### **Vision**

Prince George's Community College will be the community's *first choice for innovative, high quality learning opportunities.*

### **Mission**

Prince George's Community College *transforms students' lives.* The college exists to educate, train, and serve our diverse populations through accessible, affordable, and rigorous learning experiences.

## Fall, 2012 Credit Students Enrolled = 13,824

<b>Demographic Profile*</b>	<b>Proportion</b>
<b>Full-time</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Prince George's County Resident</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>Minority</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>Age 24 or under</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>U.S. Citizen</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>Attending College for the First Time</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b><i>First Generation College</i></b>	<b>40%</b>

\* All calculations eliminate "unknowns"



## College Readiness Initiatives

- Academy of Health Sciences @ PGCC
  - Maryland's first Middle College High School
- Dual Enrollment
- College Preparation Intervention Program (CPIP)
- Additional
  - Testing and Advising
  - Adopt-a-School Mentoring Program
  - Regional Financial Aid Workshops (PGCPS)
  - Academic Days
  - K-12 Lab at new Center for Health Studies



## Academy of Health Sciences @ PGCC

- The First Middle College High School in the Region
- ***The Academy of Health Sciences @ PGCC***
- Focused on students with an interest in Health Sciences or STEM careers



## The Academy of Health Sciences (AHS)

- Opened in Summer 2011
- Located on Largo campus
- 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades
- Dual Enrollment
- At completion
  - High School Diploma
  - Associate's Degree in General Studies
- 100 students per grade level, beginning with 9<sup>th</sup> grade class



## Academy of Health Sciences



- 50% of seats
  - Low socio-economic homes and/or first generation college students
- Considered college student
  - ID, Student Number, etc.
- Prepares students to
  - Enter one of PGCC's academic programs
  - Transfer to a four-year college's program

## Academy Students



*“This school has been an amazing experience! The teachers here are really helpful and want nothing but the best for all of us. Even though we learn at a fast pace, they make it easy and understandable.”* Franklyn Decker

*“At the Academy of Health Sciences, we are like a family.”*  
Simonne Francis

*“I love the science experience and being on a college campus. We get to use the college labs, and I like looking professional.”*  
Heyam Abadir

*“This program is tech friendly, and that is very helpful to me. The AHS program can definitely be labeled as an excellent college prep program.”* Brian Jones



## Challenges and Opportunities

- Blending two cultures and systems
  - Policies and procedures
  - Dates of operation
  - Data Systems
- Interest in the Academy
  - 2011: 1000 applications
  - 2012: 3000 applications
- Student Progress AY 2011-12
  - Attained a mean GPA of 3.55
  - 98% attendance rate



## Dual Enrollment

- Simultaneously earn credits for high school and college through a college course
  - Community College Research Center at Columbia University have found best results:
    - Two courses
    - Courses taken on College Campus
- Established MOU with PGCPS
  - Looks at four dual enrollment formats and concurrent enrollment across 36 variables, e.g., who pays, admission requirements, where located, when offered, advisory committee, liaisons



## Dual Enrollment

- Great interest in implementing
  - MSP2 Grant
  - Select additional courses, several a semester
- Challenges
  - Faculty deployment: variable scheduling in high schools
  - Number of students who pass Accuplacer
  - Cannot offer most desired courses due to conflict with AP Courses



## College Preparation Intervention Program (CPIP)

- Grant for one year, beginning February 2013
  - Awarded \$126,000.00
- *College Awareness Preparation Program (CAPP)*
  - Five area high schools – 240 students and parents/guardians
    - College Awareness Sessions – students and parents
    - Academic Remediation Sessions via Mini College Course: focus on Mathematics and English
  - Sessions in Summer and Fall 2012 – Two cohorts



## Additional College Readiness Initiatives

- Testing and Advising
  - Offer Accuplacer placement test to all interested juniors and seniors in all public high schools
  - Includes test preparation
  - Followed by advising sessions and mentoring by student ambassadors
- Adopt-a-School Mentoring Program
  - Support and mentor middle school students, in their quest to learn more about the high school and college transition process



## **Additional College Readiness Initiatives**

- **Regional Financial Aid Workshops (PGCPS)**
  - One in each of the five regions of school system
- **Academic Days**
  - Introduce prospective students to four academic programs, services and the role of faculty, staff and students on campus
- **K-12 Lab at new Center for Health Studies**

## Center for Health Studies: Lab for K-12 Partnerships





PRINCE GEORGE'S  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



# Thank You!

Questions?