

THE RURAL EARLY COLLEGE NETWORK

Grant Type: Mid-Phase

Absolute Priorities: 1 & 2

Total Students Served: 3,725

Grades Served: 9-12

Lead Organization: Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) at the University of Indianapolis

Year 1 Schools: Delta, Perry Central, Wabash, Lincoln, Greensburg, Jay County, Hagerstown, Winchester, Paoli, Logansport

Year 2 Schools: Bedford/North Lawrence, Northridge, New Palestine, Franklin County, Parke Heritage

High-Need Students: First-generation college-going, poverty, minority, rural

Project Description:

CELL will establish a Rural Early College Network (RECN) to help rural Indiana schools more quickly implement the Early College (EC) model with fidelity. In Year 1, five Mentor Schools (HSs) will be paired with five Tier 1 HSs. In Year 2, five HSs will be added and in Year 3, five more HSs. Schools will learn ways to accelerate EC implementation while working in a network and as mentor-mentee schools. Partnerships with local businesses will help update curriculum, develop work-based learning (WBL) activities, and Work Ethics Certificates (WEC) requirements. A total of 3,725 high-need students will receive intentional counseling and wrap-around supports to prepare them for success in postsecondary education and careers. Rigorous evaluation shows the EC model accelerates high-need students to achieve postsecondary success. RECN is unique because it 1) infuses rigor and supports to prepare high-need students for college/careers, 2) uses a network framework and mentor-mentee approach to accelerate EC implementation, 3) embeds WBL into EC, 4) leverages EC for local economic development, and 5) establishes a Collaborative for Rural Education to support and sustain RECN and other projects.

Project Objectives & Expected Outcomes:

- More students: a) pass dual credit EC courses, c) earn postsecondary credentials in HS, and d) accepted to postsecondary.
- At least 6 high schools are endorsed by project's end.
- Capacity for EC implementation is increased in rural schools across Indiana.
- Advisory programs, continuum of WBL activities, WECs, and sequence of college and industry visits are in place.
- Sustainable EC is scaled across each partner HS.
- Participating schools are model sites for EC implementation.