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# FY 25 Programmatic Review Report

Director, Amy Jo Clemens, Ed.D

**Name of Unit:** Center for P-20 Engagement (P-20 Center)

**CIP Code:** 30.1399

**Reporting Relationship within the University**: Division of Outreach, Engagement, and Regional Development (OERD)

**Date of Initiation**: 2002 – P-20 Task Force; 2006 – Temporary, five year approval by IBHE of the Center for Education Policy Research and Services; 2013 – Permanent approval by IBHE of the (renamed) Center for P-20 Engagement.

**Date of Last Review**: 2016

NIU's Center for P-20 Engagement brings together partners from across the region in mutually beneficial relationships to increase educational success. Across the continuum from preschool (P) to graduate school and lifelong learning (20), our activities foster innovation in schools and community engagement through hands-on learning for children, educators and families, professional development for teachers, and statewide networking to improve college and career readiness.

* [NIU STEAM](https://niusteam.niu.edu/) sparks curiosity, creativity, collaboration and critical thinking in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.
* [Illinois P-20 Network](https://p20network.niu.edu/) gathers organizational partners around innovative education initiatives to promote college and career readiness and completion for students of all ages.
* [Continuing and Professional Education](https://cpelearn.niu.edu/) provides in person and virtual opportunities to earn industry credentials, build skills and move your career forward.
* [Illinois Migrant Education Program](https://www.niu.edu/illinois-mep/index.shtml) provides supplementary educational services to children ages 3-21 and families of migrant farmworkers while they are in Illinois.
* [Illinois MTSS Network](https://ilmtss.niu.edu/) provides high-quality professional learning and coaching for schools and districts in order to develop and sustain a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS).

Overall achievements since 2016

1. Tighter alignment to the university mission now leads the work while ensuring that we have data on institutional partners, faculty involvement and overall student impact.
2. Modeling best practices which have an evidence base supporting their predicted outcomes and measured impacts of increased educational attainment is now fundamental to every program.
3. Diversified revenue across grants, contracts, fee-for-service, and foundation sponsorships.

Overall FY 25 Budget info

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Team | Grants and Contracts | Fee for Service | University Funds\* | Donations and Sponsorships | Total = $6,230,081 |
| NIU STEAM | 256,000 | 700,000 | 311,000 | 180,000 | 1,447,000 |
| CPE/OSHA |  | 1,111,381 |  |  | 1,111,381 |
| MTSS |  | 450,000 |  |  | 450,000 |
| P-20 Network | 1,150,000 | 200,000 |  |  | 1,350,000 |
| IL Migrant Services | 1,951,700 | 20,000 |  |  | 1,871,700 |

\*University funds accounts for less than 5% of the $6.2 M that is leveraged for Center for P-20 Engagement

Metrics – Each program keeps its own metrics related to the reporting mechanism required by the funder. The P-20 Center uses these metrics to ensure our high quality, inform planning for future programming and seek opportunities for growth and improvement. A belief and training in continuous improvement has guaranteed that we are making a difference. Below are some key metrics of interest that impact NIU community engagement and student recruitment. If the team would like some project evaluations with more evaluation data, let us know.

* NIU STEAM
	+ This year NIU STEAM has included 385 NIU students in classes from art to sport education to chemistry, along with internships for biology, honors, ETRA along with mentors from athletics and paid student workers and GAs.
	+ 72% of our NIU STEAM 500+ summer program attendees come at no cost to them due to our increased grant writing, fee-for service by the districts and partnerships with donors. More than 80 schools send students to our summer programming. In 2024, 33% were Hispanic/Latino which is in alignment with our pending Hispanic Serving Institution designation. An additional 24% were Black/African American and 2.4% American Indian and 1.9% Asian
	+ We collaborate with faculty to write projects and two have resulted in substantial NIU awards- the $1.66 M COE congressional project for LEAP and $160,000 each year for the CHHS for in the Huskie BELONG project (for the past three years), along with several submitted that were not funded, but are being revised and re-submitted.
	+ Our Barb City STEAM Team afterschool program, in cooperation with DeKalb CUSD 428, has 34% White students, 27.8% Black, 30.3% Hispanic and 1.1% Asian and all students must have a historical barrier to educational completion to qualify (ie low income, Free-Reduced Lunch status, single parent home, first generation student, etc). NIU students are involved in mentoring and delivering this program.
	+ STEM Fest brings thousands (ie 4500) of participants to NIU central campus to celebrate hands on experiential learning one Saturday in September with more than 60 student volunteers along with 100 NIU students in booths representing their majors and their co-curriculars. High evaluation scores continue to support that the attendees would not only recommend others come to the festival but that they now see NIU as a STEAM/STEM educational leader. It is funded through donations/sponsorships and NIU STEAM.
* Migrant Education Program (IMES)
	+ IMES staff is 100% diverse, bilingual in Spanish and delivers the IL statewide migrant education program for the Illinois State Board of Education.
	+ More than 1200 eligible migratory farmworking children each year are identified for supplemental supports to their education across IL.
	+ A new leadership camp is being created and offered this summer by NIU STEAM for eligible high school students.
	+ IMES continues to meet the measurable program objectives (MPOs) as required by the USDE Office of Migrant Education. Students are identified, served and meet expectations with the supports provided across the state.
* Continuing Professional Education/OSHA National Safety Education Center
	+ NIU is 17 out of 26 national education approved centers for OSHA and results in more than 5000 safety-trained professionals each year.
	+ A new OSHA classroom at NIU Naperville is reaching more suburban industry professionals, ensuring that state-of-the-art training and equipment, bought with OSHA grant funds, is utilized in required training.
	+ Our OSHA/CPE director is the president of the national association for OSHA safety training centers
	+ NIU CPE SHRM (HR) program enrollment is top 10% in the country.
* MTSS Network
	+ Approved learning partner with the Illinois State Board of Education IL EMPOWER program to use federal school improvement funds to work with lowest performing schools in IL (along with NIU STEAM)
	+ In FY 24, more than 5500 K-12 teachers and administrators participated in P-20 Center programs including workshops, conferences, community of practices, instructional coaching and more. These were funded through a variety of conferences and workshops, but more importantly, a growing number of multiple sessions, coaching and other professional development shown to change their practice.
* IL P-20 Network
	+ Research-practice partnership that focuses on college and career readiness across the P-20 continuum in collaboration with the College of Education.
	+ 358 partners include 229 K-12 school districts, 56 postsecondary institutions and 73 educational organizations.
	+ Various work groups on key topics include 90+ people in the dual credit workgroup, more than 60 educators in the career pathways workgroup and schools, districts and community colleges in other work groups like KEEP (teacher retention).
	+ Additional work includes more than 15 MOUs to focus on local issues across the local P-20 spectrum (ie community college and K-12). This includes various agreements for consulting support in strategic planning, school improvement, career and college pathway endorsements and other projects identified by the partner.

Overall Goals for the Center

* Alignment to University mission
	+ Key focus for P-20 Center - Alignment to Centering Engagement-Driving Impact Action Plan.
		- Ensure P-20 Center is woven into the CEDI work, being able to determine impact
		- Continue data collection and analysis of impact to how the P-20 Center is essential to NIU mission/vision
* Continual modeling of evidence-based practices
	+ Key focus for P-20 – leveraging general pipeline activities into prospective NIU students
		- Making additional faculty connections in all colleges so students benefit and we model how outreach and engagement partnerships can be essential to student experiential learning in credit courses
		- Expand the new EMMC-NIU STEAM dashboard of prospective student contacts across all of P-20 programs
* Diversified Revenue
	+ Key focus for P-20 - improvement in operational effectiveness and efficiency
		- Continued budget stability in all projects with NIU STEAM being the only department that leverages university funds
		- Stable, cross-trained administrative assistant support to all projects so there are no crises or pauses in the work that is being done

Response to last report. Recommendations from 2016 review

1. *The CPE Center needs to identify its deliverables (i.e., measurable outcomes) to demonstrate its effectiveness in meeting its purpose and goals.*

Due to the growth of the Center for P-20 Engagement, most metrics are collected by a team or as part of evaluation reports for specific grants or contracts. The data in these reports inform the quality of our work and ensures lasting impact for both NIU and the state P-20 educational continuum. P-20 Center programs are most-closely focused on eliminating barriers to P-20 educational attainment especially those experienced by the most vulnerable students, like, migratory farmworking children and families, special education children and families, adult/non-traditional learners, low income children, underrepresented students and the adults and systems that support them.

1. *Start collecting and publicizing specific data on actions and results associated with the CPE. For example, publicize more detailed records on services rendered and who they were provided for; specific attendance figures at events, who participated in events, and expenses/revenue provided by events. Publicize more to the NIU community the CPE accomplishments and initiatives.*

This is now accomplished through a set of regular newsletters, NIU Today stories, grant evaluations, research reports, various infographics and other materials, some used for marketing. The audience and purpose of the report is carefully considered. In the same month we might be submitting a research report on SkillsUSA (apprenticeships across IL) with DCEO and a STEM Fest Infographic for sponsors, while distributing spring STEAM activities to do as families in our newsletter, marketing for an Engaged Learning conference for K-12 in June, flyers for monthly STEM Cafes, along with emails to potential new CPE students who left courses in their “shopping cart” on our new website. Here is an example of our reach, looking at newsletter recipients and open rates.

* NIU STEAM (biweekly)– 2746 recipients with 45% open rate
* MTSS (monthly)– 2347 recipients with 43% open rate
* P-20 Network (biweekly)– 762 recipients with 51% open rate
* IMES (monthly) for staff
* CPE (various) – 34,282 recipients with 20% open rate
1. *As much as possible, integrate active recruiting efforts for Northern Illinois University into CPE activities. Could admissions or College/Department staff be utilized at events to promote their programs?*

This has been hard work, but this winter, NIU STEAM created a dashboard with SLATE that will track contact with our participants INTO their freshman year. For example, at this time we know that 136 students out of our campers last year have made some kind of contact with NIU admissions for the year they would be a freshman. This pilot is only populated with NIU STEAM camp participants now, but plans include first bringing on all of NIU STEAM participants and then a continued expansion into other P-20 Center programs.

1. *Consider asking Colleges and Departments to pick up part of the cost of stipends paid to individuals working with the CPE as these events benefit the Departments as well as the University. Consider also asking Departments to pick up the cost of providing some events such as STEAM café presentations as part of their recruiting efforts.*

This has never been our model. We pay faculty for their expertise. This has gotten incredibly difficult with all the challenges to ad pay and extra pay but we are hoping there are some permanent changes in the near future to make this easier administratively.

1. *The CPE needs to identify how it will raise adequate revenue to support its current expenses and eliminate its reliance on general revenue funds, in addition to raising adequate funds to support its future growth without reliance on the general revenue funds.*

The goal given was to be 60% externally funded by 2017 and we are now more than 95% externally funded.