**Membership Information**:

**The “Roundtable” Roundup**

This is the updated contact information for Roundtable Participants:



# Attendance:

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here were 44 folks in attendance at the September 8, 2015, meeting. Tamika Abercrombie, Ohio Valley Hospital School of Nursing; Kayla Adams, HS graduate and future Carlow Student; Rachael Banks, PSU Greater Allegheny; Dave Barkovich, North Hills HS/ACCA; Ben Brudnock, Wells Fargo; Marcus Burkley, Pittsburgh Community Services; Saqib Chowdhry, Clarion University; Megan Colt, Chartiers Valley HS; Amy Cribbs, AIU3; Alyssa Dobson, Slippery Rock University; Sophia Duck, Youthworks; Wendy Dunlap, PHEAA; Sue Ellen Ganz, Summer Bridge (Independent Consultant); Eva Gelman, College Quest; Erin Grimm, AIU3; Rick Grychowski, Cathedral Preparatory School (and his wife, a former educator); Mike Hambrick, North Allegheny HS; Jayeann Harr, PHEAA; Stephanie Hendershot, Robert Morris University; Jennifer Holbert, CCAC South; Amirah Hunt, Pittsburgh Promise; Lorie Johnson-Osho, Slippery Rock University; Amanda Laichak, Junior Achievement; Issac Leonard, Clarion University; Will Lindsey, PHEAA; Sarah Loomis, Pittsburgh Technical Institute; Juli Louttit, Butler Co. Community College; Phil McCaffrey, McCaffrey Tutoring; Patti McCarthy, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Rhena McCaskill, CCAC; Kim McCurdy, PHEAA; Emily Noel, Oakland Catholic HS; Patty Peterson, PNC Bank; Sean Riffle, JobCorps; Lori Rue, Pittsburgh Community Services; Peggy Schmiedecke, La Roche College; Debra Seidenstricker, Penn State Beaver; Michael Schleiden, JobCorps; Amy Sloan, PHEAA; Debra Smallwood, Neighborhood Learning Alliance; Heather Stevens, Youthworks; Jean Whalen, Pine-Richland HS; Dan Wray, PHEAA

# Old Business:

Financial Literacy Bill 2.0:

There has been no movement on HB328. We also have not heard anything about SB111 which is the Pathways to College Bill. As the budget is a top concern at this time, we don’t anticipate any traction on these at the moment.

Alyssa Dobson introduced HB760 to us which is the PA Dream Act. As part of this legislation, undocumented HS students who have an established history in PA (have been attending a PA HS and have a PA HS diploma) could attend a PASSHE school at an in-state tuition rate. She said this population of students is expected to continue to grow and while this is a practice at many schools, often families are not aware of this accommodation and it is not publicized. This bill would streamline this process. There was a call to the members to see if our group would like to support this legislation and Alyssa would draft something and pass it along to the legislature. We called for a show of support and there was a majority vote to support this legislation. Alyssa will move on to next steps.

**Minority Transition Committee – Reboot!:** The minority transition committee has been meeting, but they have not come to any resolutions or deliverables. It was decided that the committee needs to come back to the beginning of what our original purpose was in establishing this committee. It was to determine what programs are out there for minority students, perhaps look at the Black Male Leadership program that has been developed and find ways to include female students, and establish ways for collaboration among our membership. There was a call for additional members as well. The committee, at this time, will include: Lori Rue, Sophia Duck, Jen Burns, Stephanie Hendershot, Saqib Chowdhry, Kathryn Bethea, Tyler Butler, Justin McCaskill, Rachael Banks, Alesha Platt, Kim McCurdy and a representative from IUP to be determined. If you would like to also be a part of this committee, please let Kim McCurdy know and we will include you on the distribution list. The first meeting will be a conference call sometime in October.

## New Business:

**Pittsburgh Community Services**: Marcus Burkley, the program coordinator for PCS’s Work Certified Program spoke about this program, open to all HS graduates, students who have graduated from college and are looking for some additional information and resources for finding a job, or even folks who have been laid off from the workforce or are looking to start a new career and brush up on their interviewing skills. The only requirement is that you live in Allegheny Co. (Note: There is a similar program in Washington Co. that is administered by the local WIB). The program is a full-time, 3 ½ week long program. At the end, after passing their final exam, participants earn a credential they may use on their resume. The next session begins on September 21, 2015. If you know of any students who would like to participate, you can put them in touch with Marcus at [marcusb@pghcsi.org](mailto:marcusb@pghcsi.org). If you’re interested in observing a class or have questions, let Marcus know. Here are the handouts that were provided.



**Pittsburgh Promise Updates:** Amirah Hunt, the Program Manager for Pittsburgh Promise, spoke regarding the upcoming changes to the Promise Scholarship. Beginning with the HS Class of 2017, students will be eligible for a maximum of $7,500 per year or $30,000 over the course of their program (must be used during the first 5 years after graduation). The benefit will no longer be able to cover any costs other than tuition and mandatory fees. Eligibility requirements remain the same. If you have any questions, you may contact Amirah at [Amirah@pittsburghpromise.org](mailto:Amirah@pittsburghpromise.org).

Also, the Pittsburgh Promise will host a fundraising event “Walk for One Promise” on September 26. Participants will walk 13.1 miles through Pittsburgh. If you’re interested in participating or finding out more information, visit the Promise website at [www.Pittsburghpromise.org](http://www.Pittsburghpromise.org) or contact Amirah.

**PHEAA Updates:** Wendy Dunlap, Access Partner from PHEAA, provided a few updates to the group. The **PA State Budget** has not passed and therefore, the state grant awards for fall are not being disbursed until PHEAA receives the state’s appropriation and awards can be confirmed. If you have students or parents who have questions, please advise them to contact their local legislator.

The **new FSA ID process** began this year (which replaced the PIN as the means to sign the FAFSA application). Please encourage your families to apply for their FSA IDs prior to sitting down to complete the FAFSA. There have been a few hiccups with the process and it is time consuming. Students and parents will require a valid, unique email address, and be asked to answer challenge questions, one of which requires a significant date. Students have been having trouble with this as well. Encourage them to write down their information and keep it in a safe place.

**PHEAA’s counselor workshops** will be held in November and registration is available at <http://www.pheaa.org/partner-access/training/workshops.shtml> .

**MySmartBorrowing.org** is PHEAA’s online tool for students to research careers, school costs, see how much they might have to borrow for school, and what repayment might look like with their budget. This tool was just enhanced and the new version has been made available for preview with a hard launch coming this fall.Here is the new bookmark that is available for ordering.

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**Publications:** PHEAA offers several publications free-of-charge including our Student Aid Guide which was just recently updated for 2016-17. If you need any of these materials, you may order them at [www.pheaa.org/order-online](http://www.pheaa.org/order-online) or contact your Higher Education Access Partner.

**PHEAA’s call center in Green Tree is hiring**! If you know someone looking for a job, please pass along the attached flyer or have them apply online at pheaa.org/jobs.



**Wells Fargo – First Generation Film Update:** Ben Brudnock mentioned that the First Generation Film will be available for streaming on September 24 at [www.gocollegenow.org](http://www.gocollegenow.org). There are two versions available – the 90-minute, full version and an abbreviated 60-minute version. They are also associating a social media campaign at #gocollegenow. There is a first-generation pledge you can sign at the site. Ben said of all current college students, at least 50% are first generation. If you have any questions or would like to work with Ben to bring the film to your school or group as well as incorporate a discussion group, please contact him at [Benjamin.brudnock@wellsfargo.com](mailto:Benjamin.brudnock@wellsfargo.com). This is the flyer that Ben passed out at the meeting.



**“Reaching Higher with Allegheny Co. Counselor’s Association”** - Dave Barkovich, the president of ACCA, spoke about an upcoming event that is being held as part of PSCA. Based on Michelle Obama’s Reach Higher Initiative ([www.reachhigher.gov](http://www.reachhigher.gov)) which encourages us to brainstorm on how we can have all students motivate themselves to reach higher, ACCA is hosting Dr. Trish Hatch on October 30 at the Chadwick (in the North Allegheny School District). Dr. Hatch is responsible for publishing work about the American School Counseling Standards. She has met with Mrs. Obama and will be speaking about how to use data in school counseling. Dave said the registration has opened to members of ACCA and that he would also like to invite our group (providing space is available) within the next few weeks. We will coordinate an email invitation so be sure to look for that soon.

Also, **PSCA is having their annual conference** in Hershey, PA, on Feb. 18 – 20. The conference marks the 60th anniversary of PSCA. You can sign up for the conference by the end of September to receive a substantially discounted registration fee. If you have any questions about either of these events, please contact Dave at [barkovichd@nhsd.net](mailto:barkovichd@nhsd.net).

**College Goal FAFSA 2016:** We have selected **Saturday, February 20, 2016, and Saturday, February 27, 2016** as the upcoming College Goal FAFSA Completion dates. If you would like to host a FAFSA Completion event at your location, please register your site at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/collegegoalfafsa2016](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/collegegoalfafsa2016). We will work with you to make sure we have FAFSA experts available at the event and if you need assistance with registration coordination as well. We will work on a publicity campaign and try to encourage all students in Western PA to get their application completed on one of these two dates!

**Other Business and Updates to the Group:**

After a brief discussion regarding a Pell grant question and mention of school choice viewing being eliminated for the 2016-17 FAFSA (schools will no longer be able to see which schools the student has selected on the FAFSA other than their own), there were a few other updates provided to the group.

**CSF Planning Committee:** Volunteers were solicited for the Planning Committee for the 4th Annual College Success Forum which will be held on February 2. The committee will include: Kim McCurdy, Alyssa Dobson, Patti McCarthy, Lori Rue, Sophia Duck, Loren Morgan, Stephanie Hendershot, Emily Noel, and Melony Ohalek. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Kim at [kmccurdy@pheaa.org](mailto:kmccurdy@pheaa.org). We will begin planning shortly.

**Junior Achievement**: JA has been known for their K-12 programming; however, they are working on JA College Days. They have partnered with several universities, including PSU Greater Allegheny, La Roche College, and University of Pittsburgh, to bring high school students to campus and have college professors teach them JA programming. They are looking for additional college partnerships. The partners are asked to assist with bussing as well as perhaps provide lunch. If you’re interested, please contact Amanda Laichak at [alaichak@jawesternpa.org](mailto:alaichak@jawesternpa.org).

JA is also working on JA Trades Day which will be hosted by Rosedale Tech. They will be hosting Beattie Tech students. They will bring HS students in the fall and are hoping to bring some middle school students in the spring to continue that partnership.

JA has hired a new staff member, Rachel Mauer, to oversee the HS programming for JA. Amanda will pass along Rachel’s contact information soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please let her know.

**Youthworks Hire Me Program.** Heather Stevens of Youthworks is recruiting for their after school Hire Me program. They provide programming about working, schooling, interviewing, etc. The program runs from Sept. 23 till May. Students who complete the program are guaranteed a summer worksite job placement. If you have interested students, please let Heather know at [heather.stevens@goodwillswpa.org](mailto:heather.stevens@goodwillswpa.org).

Heather also mentioned that they are hiring an Americorps member to be Heather’s assistant as she prepares for upcoming maternity leave. Service would begin Oct. 6 and be a 10 or 12 month placement. If you know of someone who might be interested, please put them in touch with Heather and she will connect them to Americorps.

Sophia Duck, who is the Good Guides Mentoring Program advisor, also mentioned that they are looking for a full time employee for her program. If you know of someone who is interested, please contact Sophia at [sophia.duck@goodwillswpa.org](mailto:sophia.duck@goodwillswpa.org).

Please see the attached North Pittsburgh College Fair, Mon Valley Diversity College Fair, and CCAC Skilled Trades and Services Fair information attached.



**Calendar Items:**

**September 10, 2015**: The College Affordability Experience at RMU (PHEAA/Rep. Mustio’s Office). Open to students and parents. More information and registration at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/sept10atRMU](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sept10atRMU)

**September 22, 2015 (RMU)**: College Board Counselor Workshops: <http://counselorworkshops.collegeboard.org/>

**September 30, 2015 (Green Tree)**: ACT Counselor Workshops: <http://www.act.org/learningevents/workshops/index.html>

**October 5, 2015**: North Pittsburgh College Fair at La Roche College – 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**October 6, 2015**: Mon Valley Diversity College Fair at CCAC South – 9 a.m. – noon

**November 2015:** PHEAA Counselor Workshops: see registration link above in PHEAA Update

**November 24, 2015**: CCAC 8th Annual Trades Fair at West Hills Center – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. RSVP required to Rhena McCaskill at [rmccaskill@ccac.edu](mailto:rmccaskill@ccac.edu) or call 412-369-3612.

**Future Meetings:**

* **Tuesday, November 10, 2015, 10 a.m. – noon – Slippery Rock University \*We will ask for an RSVP to the meeting by October 30 so that we can mail you a parking pass for campus. There will also be passes available that day. SRU has graciously offered to provide lunch to us as well.**
* Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 10 a.m. – noon – Penn State Beaver in Monaca
* College Success Forum – Tuesday, February 2, 2016 – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – RMU
* Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 10 a.m. – noon – Indiana University of PA, Northpoint (exit 18 off of Route 28)
* Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 10 a.m. – noon – Pittsburgh Technical Institute, Oakdale, PA

**Special thanks to Robert Morris University and Stephanie Hendershot for hosting our Roundtable meeting. Thank you for the refreshments and your hospitality! On behalf of the Roundtable group, we really appreciate you! Thanks to everyone who attended!**