**Membership Information**:

**The “Roundtable” Roundup**

This is the updated contact information for Roundtable Participants:



Attendance:

T

here were 22 folks in attendance at the January 12, 2016, meeting. Rachael Banks, PSU Greater Allegheny; Ben Brudnock, Wells Fargo; Tyler Butler, Creative Pulsus Digital; Amy Cribbs, AIU3; Sophia Duck, Youthworks; Wendy Dunlap, PHEAA; Sue Ellen Ganz, Consultant; Stephanie Hendershot, Robert Morris University; Rebecca Kurtz, Pittsburgh Summerbridge; Sarah Loomis, Pittsburgh Technical Institute; Ingrid Lundquist, PSU Talen Search – New Castle HS; Patti McCarthy, Indiana University of PA; Kim McCurdy, PHEAA; Emily Noel, Oakland Catholic HS; Melony Ohalek, Sallie Mae; Jennifer Parsons, Cardinal Weurl North Catholic HS; Sean Riffle, JobCorps; Lori Rue, Deloje Consulting; Debra Seidenstricker, Penn State Beaver; Debra Smallwood, NLA; Michael White, Slippery Rock University; Rachel Zughaib, Penn State Beaver.

# Old Business:

**Legislative Update:**

**State Budget** – there has been a continuing appropriation from the legislature to get some funding released. As part of this plan, state grant appropriations were cut by 11.5%. The PHEAA Board of Directors is meeting in the upcoming weeks to determine how this will impact state grant funding and how those funds can be released as quickly as possible to students.

**Minority Transition Committee – Reboot! update:** Lori Rue provided an update to the group. The committee has produced a brief survey for members to outline the resources they have for minority students at their school or organization. This list will be compiled and then available on our website and for distribution to members to assist students. Please complete the following survey (click on the icon below) if you would like to include your program/resource on this resource listing for students.

[](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/?sm=lWqukmWbj8gYoc3975t3Dw_3D_3D)

**College Success Forum**: The 4th Annual CSF will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, at Robert Morris University in Moon Township. The program will be held from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the Sewall Center. Please register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSFregistration2016>. Additional information will be sent to registrants soon. Feel free to invite your colleagues and anyone who you think would benefit from this program.

**College Goal FAFSA**: Public FAFSA completion sessions will be held throughout western PA. Our College Goal FAFSA dates are Feb. 20 and 27. Please see all of the dates and sites along with registration information here: <https://www.pheaa.org/college-planning/fafsa/help-events.shtml>

Brashear High School will also be offering some FAFSA Saturdays. Dates will follow.

## New Business:

**Service Project**: Our group will be collecting donations and partnering with NLA (Neighborhood Learning Alliance) to provide resources to students as they transition from high school to college. Many students don’t have basic school supplies or have everything they need to set up a dorm room or apartment. **If you’re interested in helping, please see the attached flyer**. Items can be brought to the College Success Forum on Feb. 2, to a future Roundtable meeting, or dropped off at the NLA offices. If you cannot get to one of these locations, please contact Stephanie Hendershot ([hendershot@rmu.edu](mailto:hendershot@rmu.edu)) or Debra Smallwood ([smallwood@wireless-neighborhoods.org](mailto:smallwood@wireless-neighborhoods.org)).



As mentioned, Debra will follow up with our group regarding the students we are able to assist through our efforts. Here is a link to a video thank-you from two students, Edisa and Rusi, that Debra helped last year. Their enthusiasm and gratitude is overwhelming. I know we can do so much good through this service project. [https://youtu.be/y96wnd6ZmWA](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__youtu.be_y96wnd6ZmWA&d=BQMBaQ&c=9ut6RcAKs8AF_YMM4QH5hA&r=UbHm0wZSN3iOEFFaHBCEazfRMJm2-0apq8rgdJogWnk&m=z2khaGmjIPntjsH2vDYlErZv77rxXIMj-05uM1YyAfI&s=ujNRBVAGdkDccvZZuCcDeN1rJjJDQ090B75LjMnvJd0&e=)



**Why Not Us? documentary:** We viewed the Roadtrip Nation/College Board documentary. Four, first-generation college students travel across the country in an RV, interview leaders across the nation, and figure out it’s okay to be first. Here is the link to the film <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zidl0jHcZq0> and here is the PDF of the Why Not Us? Viewing guide.



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

**Summerbridge Pittsburgh** is recruiting 6th graders for their program <http://www.sewickley.org/Page/Summerbridge/Become-a-Summerbridge-Student>, as well as teaching fellows <http://www.sewickley.org/Page/Summerbridge/Summer-2016-Teaching-Fellowship>. Please follow the links above for specifics and applications or contact Rebecca Kurtz at [rkurtz@sewickley.org](mailto:rkurtz@sewickley.org) for more information.

**Free SAT Prep:** Pennsylvania State University Pittsburgh Community Recruitment Center is sponsoring a series of Free SAT Prep Workshops for high school juniors. Please see the attached flyer for more details and registration or contact [pghcrc@psu.edu](mailto:pghcrc@psu.edu) for more information.



**The Wells Fargo Veterans Scholarship Program:** Ben Brudnock announced that Wells Fargo is sponsoring $2M in scholarships to veterans. Please see the attached flyer for more details or visit [scholarshipamerica.org/wellsfargovets](file:///C:\Users\kmccurdy\Desktop\Western%20PA%20college%20Success%20Roundtable\scholarshipamerica.org\wellsfargovets). The deadline to apply is February 29, 2016.



Along with this discussion it was mentioned that our group really doesn’t have a veteran’s advisor presence at our group. The postsecondary schools that were in attendance said they would reach out to their campus veteran’s folks and invite them to attend our meetings or be a part of our distribution list.

**Patti McCarthy** from IUPmentioned she has been elected to the **College Board Middle States Council**. If you have any items or concerns for the College Board, she is happy to be the liaison for our group as she attends the regional Forums. You can contact her at [mccarthy@iup.edu](mailto:mccarthy@iup.edu).

**Sallie Mae** provided the following FAFSA resource handout.



**Calendar Items:**



**The NACAC College Fair** is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, and Friday, February 5. **PASFAA is in need of at least 2 more volunteers for the Thursday evening session from 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.** If you are able to assist PASFAA in handing out financial aid literature to students and parents, please contact Laura Papcunik at [lpapcunik@francis.edu](mailto:lpapcunik@francis.edu).

**Future Meetings:**

* 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 Penn State Beaver and Debra Seidenstricker 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 in the snow! Looking forward to seeing you again soon!**