

Making Connections: Preparing Students to Succeed in College and Careers

Thursday, May 14, 2015
Filming 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Central Time
St. Paul, MN

Preliminary Agenda

4:00–4:02 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

- **Julie Kochanek**, Ph.D., Director, REL Midwest

Dr. Kochanek will provide an overview of the regional educational laboratories and REL Midwest, discuss the goals of the hourlong television program, and briefly introduce the moderator.

4:02–4:05 p.m.

Event Overview

- **Matt Soldner**, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, College and Career Success Research Alliance Lead, American Institutes for Research

Dr. Soldner will provide a high-level overview of current research and efforts to advance students' readiness for life after high school, with an emphasis on ways to engage parents, educators, institutions of higher education, and the business community. Dr. Soldner also will introduce the panelists.

4:05–4:20 p.m.

Local Efforts to Advance Students' College and Career Readiness and Success

- **Damon Gunn**, Parent Academy Coordinator, Minneapolis Public Schools
- **Kara Mueller**, Career and College Readiness Coordinator and Career and Technical Education Director, St. Louis Park High School
- **Paula Palmer**, Career and College Success Director, Minnesota Department of Education

The panelists will introduce current local initiatives and programs to advance college and career readiness and success in Minnesota. Ms. Palmer will set the context for the Minnesota discussion, highlighting current data points on the state's graduation rate and

legislative and workforce imperatives for improving college and career readiness for Minnesota students. Mr. Gunn and Ms. Mueller will discuss initiatives at the district and school levels, respectively.

4:20–4:31 p.m.

Parents and College and Career Readiness and Success

- **Erick Danielson**, Supervisor, Iowa College Access Network
- **Damon Gunn**, Parent Academy Coordinator, Minneapolis Public Schools

Mr. Danielson and Mr. Gunn will discuss strategies that parents and other family members can proactively employ to advance students' readiness for, and success in, college and careers. Mr. Danielson will share how the Iowa College Access Network works with families to inform them about college entry requirements, including financial obligations. Mr. Gunn will explain how the Parent Academy empowers families to navigate the school system and work with school faculty and staff to advance their child's academic development.

4:31–4:42 p.m.

Communities and College and Career Readiness and Success

- **Erick Danielson**, Supervisor, Iowa College Access Network
- **Kara Mueller**, Career and College Readiness Coordinator and Career and Technical Education Director, St. Louis Park High School

Mr. Danielson and Ms. Mueller will share insights into how schools can build partnerships with outside institutions, including local businesses and institutions of higher education, to prepare students for success after high school. Mr. Danielson will discuss how the Iowa College Access Network has collaborated with community organizations such as the Greater Des Moines Partnership to build additional supports for college and career readiness and success for students. Ms. Mueller will highlight the St. Louis Park High School Academy and its advisory board with local business professionals.

4:42–4:53 p.m.

Practical Tips for Collaboration Across Stakeholder Groups

- **Erick Danielson**, Supervisor, Iowa College Access Network
- **Damon Gunn**, Parent Academy Coordinator, Minneapolis Public Schools
- **Kara Mueller**, Career and College Readiness Coordinator and Career and Technical Education Director, St. Louis Park High School

- **Paula Palmer**, Career and College Success Director, Minnesota Department of Education

The panelists will share ideas about ways their stakeholder groups can work together to advance college and career readiness for students, from the school to the state level.

4:53–4:55 p.m.

Concluding Remarks

- **Matt Soldner**, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, College and Career Success Research Alliance Lead, American Institutes for Research

Dr. Soldner will review briefly the topics discussed during the program, refer audience members to resources they can consult for additional information, and thank audience members and viewers for their attendance and participation.