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Potential of Pathway Partnerships with High Schools

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AAC Proposal for Spring 2023

- 1) Presentation Title:
Program Assessment – Potential of Pathway Partnerships with High Schools
- 2) Presenter Information
Terri Gaeddert is Associate Dean of the College of Technology and Aviation at Kansas State University (KSU). Prior to KSU, she was the Director of Teacher Education and Professor of Education at Sterling College, where she also served as associate dean. Dr. Gaeddert earned her BS in Mathematics and Computer Science at Chadron State College, a Master of Arts in Teaching from Friends University, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Wichita State University. She is passionate about supporting student learning and educational experiences.
- 3) Disciplines: Education; Educational Leadership; Higher Education Administration
- 4) Presentation Theme: Enrollment OR Emerging Trends in Higher Education
- 5) Presentation Type: best practice presentation (50 minutes; 30 minutes with activity interspersed)
- 6) Abstract: Presenter and participants will discuss current and emergent trends among colleges and universities in working with high school students. Presenter will share one approach to developing partnerships and career pathways with communities and school districts. Data from three semesters of implementation will be shared.
- 7) Keywords: enrollment, cost of higher education, changing demands, college to career, dual credit
- 8) Description of the session:

Department chairs and other university leaders are concerned about declining enrollment. In fall 2021, the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center reported an 8% drop in undergraduate student enrollment in the last two years. Those concerns continue to exist in multiple reports predicting a decline in high school graduates in the coming years. At the same time, colleges and universities are dealing with public perception questioning the value of a high-cost degree.

One way to address concerns is to establish pathway partnerships which a) engage high school students prior to graduation, b) illustrate value of college work through partnership with school districts, and c) reduce the cost of the overall degree for students.

In this session, a review of current literature regarding concurrent enrollment will be shared. We will discuss advantages and disadvantages of dual credit opportunities for high school students and have an opportunity to hear challenges and insights from participants. The presenter will provide an overview of implementing a program from personal experience; review data regarding student enrollment, performance, and cost; and share lessons learned from the first two years of the program.

All documents used for the presentation will be uploaded prior to the conference.