



## Monroe 2/Orleans BOCES

### Program Overview

The Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES led consortium will partner with the Brockport and Churchville-Chili Central School Districts to build a successful and sustainable model to increase student participation in AP courses. This consortium has identified three primary goals for the implementation of the Virtual Advanced Placement program.

**Goal 1:** To increase student participation in Advanced Placement courses and expand opportunities for students to develop essential college and career ready skills, with emphasis on the recruitment of low-income students.

**Goal 2:** Create a support structure to orient and guide parents and students beginning in middle school to increase interest in college level opportunities, and provide the technical and instructional supports to students actively enrolled in AP courses.

**Goal 3:** Build capacity within participating districts to provide and support student success through virtual AP courses.

For many families, college is quickly dismissed due to financial hardship. The day to day struggles of making ends meet becomes the only thing that matters. Students with so much potential are left to survive rather than thrive.

Planning for college requires a great deal of time, and success can be much more easily achieved if parents work with their district early on to understand what options are available, chart a course for their student(s) and receive the support they need to become partners in the process.

Providing administrators, counselors, teachers and other support staff with tools, resources and training will enhance their ability to develop a comprehensive approach to engaging parents in the planning process. Providing workshops, seminars and resources to families geared toward college and career readiness can increase awareness and help parents become more interested and involved in the education of their children.

Giving students the technology and tools they need to develop college and career ready skills is an essential component of this program. Access to resources that can support student learning both inside and outside of school will be supported by this program to ensure equal opportunity for all students.

Finally, helping teachers develop skills to deliver courses in a virtual environment, utilize various resources to enhance learning through a blended approach, and support students throughout the process will be the final keys to sustained success.

## **Program Activities**

The VAP program will cover the costs for students interested in taking the PSAT. The PSAT can be used to identify strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study and serve as a guide to college and career development.

The VAP program will also support the costs for students who will take online AP courses through our partnership with Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES AccelerateU. Up to 50 students at BOCES and across the two partner districts will participate in several AP courses through AccelerateU. Students will be provided laptops with 4G service allowing them to access their courses at home and at school. Students will have access to a local coach or tutor who can support their learning and keep them focused and on track in the online environment while the course content is taught online by a certified teacher. In addition, the grant will provide the funding for an online tutoring program where students can receive support 24/7 from a live content expert.

Parents and students will be offered a range of seminars and workshops designed to orient them to the benefits of taking the PSAT, provide information about AP courses, financial aid and other college planning tools.

In the 14-15 school year BOCES 2 and district teams will assess the success of the first year, identify gaps in meeting the goals of the grant, and if necessary, develop an online curriculum to address these gaps and deliver courses in a virtual environment which can be offered to their students beginning in 15-16.

## **Professional Development**

Professional development will target building skills and capacity in teachers and other staff to effectively create and deliver course content in a blended and online environment. There will be three parts to the professional development offered to the teachers participating in the VAP grant. There will be in-person training sessions. Ongoing workshops, offered at regular intervals, will be conducted both in person and online. Finally, there will be an online Community of Practice where teachers and BOCES staff will be able to ask questions, share best practices, offer solutions and share resources online 24/7.

Initial in-person training and work sessions:

### **Fundamentals of Online Teaching**

- Creating a Syllabus
- Instructor Roles
- Blended Learning
- Learning Management System (LMS) Training

### **Online Course Design**

- Instructional Strategies
- Activities
- Assessment
- Open Educational Resources (OER)

Ongoing workshops will include, but not be limited to the topics of:

- Student Digital Citizenship
- Online Communication
- Learner-centered Environment
- Online Facilitation Skills

Training will also be provided for the mentor/coaching staff that will be assigned students at the district level to provide local support for the AccelerateU AP online courses. This “Supporting the Online Learner” training will include:

- Coordinating with the online teacher
- Accessing the online LMS and grades
- Helping your student with time management
- Responsibilities

### **Program Contacts**

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