THE COLLEGE BOARD **ADVOCACY & POLICY CENTER**

AFFINITY NETWORK

CONNECTING K12 & POST SECONDARY EDUCATION
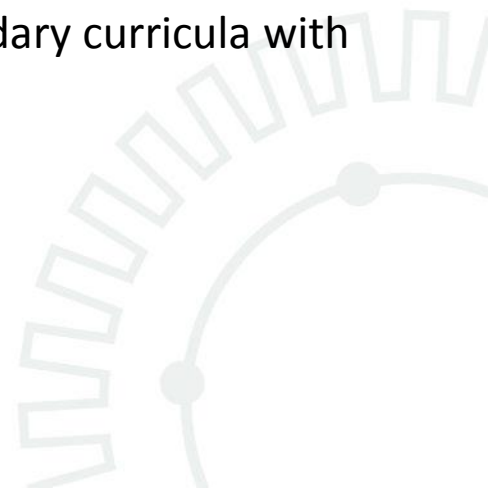
OKLAHOMA

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- *The purpose of the Affinity Network is to build and strengthen connections between K-12 and postsecondary education systems and facilitate successful transition from high school to college. The Affinity Network will bring together educators and administrators from across sectors to tackle a new critical issue each year that requires K-12 and postsecondary systems to work together in order to find solutions.*

- Five states: Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Oklahoma and Washington in first cadre (2012-13)

- The issue: Beginning the process of aligning K-12 and postsecondary curricula with Common Core standards for Math and English Language Arts.

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Oklahoma Capstone Team

Name	Institutional Affiliation
Jonetta Jonte' (ELA)	Oklahoma City Public Schools
Kim Jameson (ELA)	Oklahoma City Community College
Matt Hollrah (ELA)	University of Central Oklahoma
Jim Machell (Policy)	University of Central Oklahoma
Verna Martin (Policy)	Oklahoma City Public Schools
Myron Pope (Policy)	University of Central Oklahoma

Oklahoma Capstone Team

Name	Institutional Affiliation
Stu Harvey (Policy)	Oklahoma City Community College
Jay Corwin (Policy)	University of Central Oklahoma
Christy Brown (Math)	Oklahoma City Public Schools
Jesse Byrne (Math)	University of Central Oklahoma
Tamara Carter (Math)	Oklahoma City Community College
Diane Dang (Math)	Oklahoma City Public Schools
Heather Sparks (Math)	Oklahoma City Public Schools

Focus

Examined:

- Communication between Institutions;

- Communication between Faculty;

- What types of assignments are happening at other Institutions?

- What are writing emphases in Common Core 11th & 12th Grade Levels?

- What do texts, syllabi, and writing assignments look like at each Institution?

- What are common Essay Assignments between Institutions (if any)?

- What are common threads for Writing Assignments in All Disciplines?

- What would College-Ready look like?

- What type of product might address common threads?

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Focus

Rationale:

- After identifying writing emphases for Jr. & Sr. High School Levels using Common Core Standards, we selected an argument or expository focus as possible common writing assignment types that could be used across disciplines. A Synthesis Essay assignment was selected as a practical starting point. The Synthesis Essay was found to meet the Common Core Standards emphasis for LA, each Institution had experience with this essay, and it narrowed the focus of Common Core for Language Arts.

- Creating a frame of reference.

Product:

- A synthesis essay in which the writer presents an argument on a topic by analyzing and relating two or more sources.

Main Findings

Findings:

- Agreed on many of the CCSS and what students should be able to do by College.
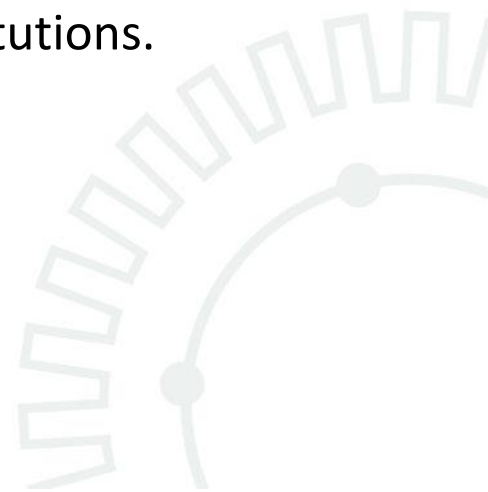
Needs:

- Communication Bridge between school levels for instructors;

- Assignment/Academic Bridge between HS, Community College, and University for students;

- Identify Vocabulary differences;

- Identify curriculum gaps at all levels;

- Create curriculum continuity between levels and organizations

- Frame of reference;

- Meta Writing Assignment: Assignment must offer template model for writing across curriculum in all disciplines.

Recommendations

- Conversations must continue between faculty leads and key Institutional administration;

- Broaden scope to include additional faculty from all Institutions;

- Broaden scope to include other disciplines in the writing;

- Pilot Meta Writing Assignment between three initial Institutions.

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Next Steps
Sustaining Collaboration & Enacting Recommendations

- Sustaining Collaboration;

- Gather and analyze sample assignments from instructors across disciplines & Institutions;

- Examine assignment samples to determine the extent to which assignments realize the CCSS;

- Determine the extent to which these assignments can be retrofitted;

- Discuss how the College and University will transition from assignments directly tied to CCSS and move to assignments tied to their academic and professional pursuits;

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Next Steps
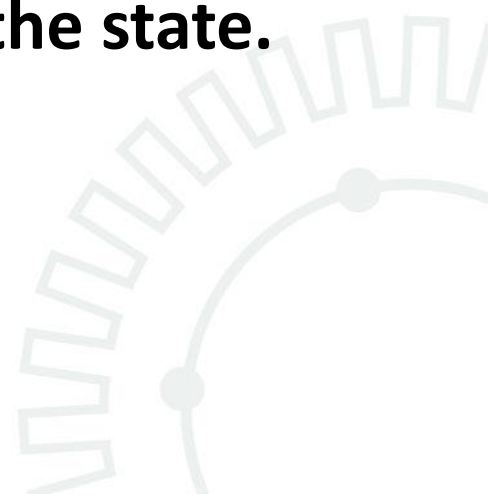## Sustaining Collaboration & Enacting Recommendations

- Using Meta Assignment as a diagnostic essay or as the first graded assignment in Composition I are just two of many possible options;

- Discuss where placement fits or if it does;

- Analyze pool of assignments to determine knowledge being transferred and retained;

- Implement assignment in High School and college classrooms;

- Pilot between HS/College/University analyzing student writing for interpretation of prompts between levels and retention of knowledge.
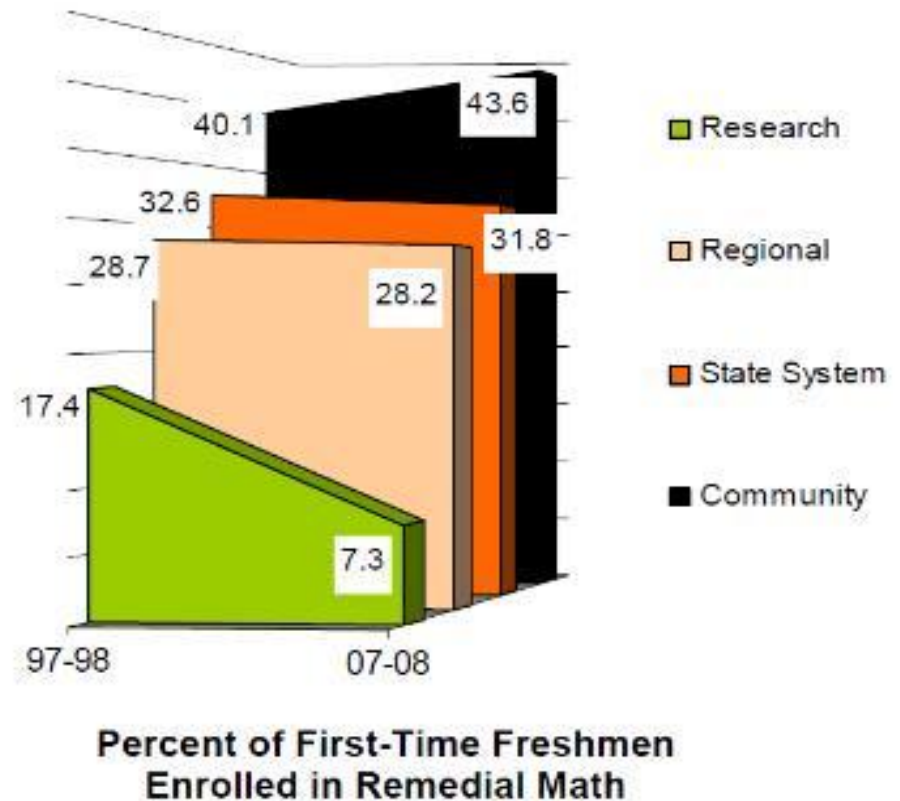
Focus

The team is working to reduce rates of enrollment in developmental math and improve OKCPS students' college math preparation .

The team is working to cultivate, strengthen and expand the math educator pipeline in the state.

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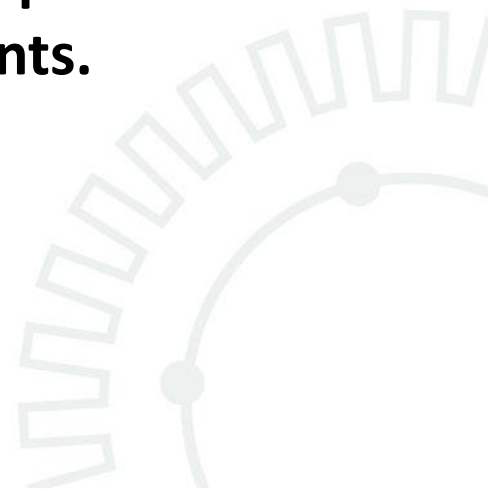
Main Findings

- **A significant number of Oklahoma students must take remedial math courses in post-secondary Education**

- **The supply of mathematics teachers in P-12 schools is inadequate to staff enrollment needs of schools across the state.**

40.1	
32.6	43.6
28.7	31.8
17.4	28.2
7.3	

■ Research
□ Regional
■ State System
■ Community

97-98   07-08

Percent of First-Time Freshmen Enrolled in Remedial Math

Source: OK Regents for Higher Education, Remediation Report

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Recommendations

- Diagnose math struggles before students enter middle school so appropriate interventions are in place to support those learners.

- Pre-teach important math concepts to middle school and high school students in summer programs to enhance student success.

- Develop new upper level high school courses like quantitative reasoning as 4th year enrollment option for students.

Next Steps
Sustaining Collaboration & Enacting Recommendations

1. Carry out a regional math pathways study.

2. Maintain dialog among P-20 math educators.

Objectives & Activities

• Identifying common policy and administrative issues to anchor our partnership

• Developing an institutional framework for continuing our collaboration

• Developing data sharing processes to increase awareness of performance and/or key issues that require cooperative efforts

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Next Steps
Sustaining Collaboration & Disseminating Recommendations

1. <u>Central Oklahoma Regional Educational (CORE) Partnership</u>

- **First year would be existing institutions and membership**
- **Would meet once a semester for a half day**
- **Data sharing**
- **Progress Reports**
- **New Business and Concerns**
- **Would be expanded to include additional members over time**
- **First meeting, fall 2013**

2. <u>Math study</u> (summer 2013)

3. <u>ELA pilot</u> (tbd)

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- Everyone enjoyed working together – especially faculty. This first year was about relationship building.

- Implementing Common Core will be a multi-year process requiring frequent communication and mid-course corrections.

- Viewing our existing relationships through the prism of student success – *our* students**.**

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