



BOARD OF REGENTS

SUMMARY OF ITEM FOR ACTION, INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION

TOPIC: ACES (Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success Program)

COMMITTEE: Advancement

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: May 14, 2014

SUMMARY: Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) is a collaborative program between Montgomery College (MC), Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), and The Universities at Shady Grove (USG). The program seeks to create a seamless pathway from high school to college completion. ACES focuses on identifying and supporting students who come from backgrounds that are underrepresented in higher education and those who are the first in their family to attend college.

The program began in the fall of 2013 with 10 high schools participating. Students in grades 9 and 10 are identified for college awareness sponsored by MCPS. Students apply to ACES in the spring of their sophomore year for the Montgomery College portion of the program and, if accepted to the program, are assigned an academic coach during grades 11 and 12. Coaching and support through Montgomery College and Universities at Shady Grove will continue for ACES students who choose to attend these institutions. The program will have 990 enrolled at the high school level.

Looking ahead, there will be an increased need for scholarships – and a tremendous fundraising opportunity – for USG and its partner campuses as ACES students begin to enroll in USM programs. This presentation is intended to begin a discussion about this opportunity and to encourage partner campuses to support fundraising efforts that will enable the USM to ensure the success of ACES from high school through a four-year degree.

ALTERNATIVE(S):

FISCAL IMPACT:

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

COMMITTEE ACTION: none DATE: May 14, 2014

BOARD ACTION: DATE:

SUBMITTED BY: Leonard Raley, Vice Chancellor for Advancement (rale@usmd.edu),
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ACHIEVING COLLEGIATE EXCELLENCE AND SUCCESS

Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) is a collaborative program between Montgomery College (MC), Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), and The Universities at Shady Grove (USG). The program seeks to create a seamless pathway from high school to college completion. ACES focuses on identifying and supporting students who come from backgrounds that are underrepresented in higher education and those who are the first in their family to attend college.

The program began in the fall of 2013 with 10 high schools participating. Students in grades 9 and 10 are identified for college awareness sponsored by MCPS. Activities consist of developing an electronic portfolio, participating in a summer program, and building college awareness. Students apply to ACES in the spring of their sophomore year for the Montgomery College portion of the program and, if accepted to the program, are assigned an academic coach during grades 11 and 12. Coaching and support through Montgomery College and Universities at Shady Grove will continue for ACES students who choose to attend these institutions.

STAFFING

ACES Director Karen Callender's background includes a master's degree in Higher and Adult Education from Teachers College, and over 15 years of experience in planning, developing, and managing programs within multiple areas of student services. She developed the College Now Program, a college readiness program in conjunction with New York City public high schools working with high school students at all levels in preparation for college—this program has many similarities with ACES. Ms. Callender and Joyce Walker, ACES coordinator, are providing the leadership for ACES.

Ten dedicated, passionate academic coaches were hired with experience working in similar programs for at-risk students. Their commitment to this population is already apparent as they have quickly integrated themselves into their MCPS high school environments while providing kickoff activities, individualized needs assessments, and academic interventions to ensure students are ready for college.

PARTICIPATION

To date, 990 students are participating in the ACES Program. The 10 high schools participating in the ACES program are: Blair, Clarksburg, Einstein, Gaithersburg, Kennedy, Northwood, Rockville, Seneca Valley, Watkins Mill, and Wheaton.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

ACES coaches have met with students in their schools to determine what is needed to ensure they are ready for college. ACES kickoff events were held in each school to share program plans and student participation expectations with parents and students. Academic interventions have begun and include Saturday School, preparation for college admissions tests, and tutoring for targeted classes and basic academic skills. College visits are also part of the program and more than 100 ACES students attended the Scholarship Conference at the Universities at Shady Grove.

Work is underway to design and prepare for the summer programs. Each institution is sponsoring one or more summer programs as described below:

Summer Programs Begin Summer 2014

STUDENTS	COURSE TITLE	ORGANIZATION
Rising 9th Graders	Introduction to ACES	MCPS
Rising 10th Graders	Remedial Support & Advanced Placement Prep	MCPS
Rising 11th Graders	ACES Academic Enrichment & College Readiness	MC
Rising 12th Graders	Career Preparation & Professionalism	USG
Rising College Freshman	Orientation to Montgomery College	MC
Rising Sophomores	Planning for a Bachelor's Degree	MC & USG
Rising College Juniors	Orientation to The Universities at Shady Grove	USG
Rising College Seniors	Field Placement/Internships Assist with 12th Grade Summer Program	USG

DATA COLLECTION EVALUATION

A database has been designed for information on ACES students. Appropriate data from MCPS, MC, and USG will contribute to the database and provide information and reports necessary to track the progress of students in the program and the expected outcomes of the program. While college completion is the ultimate goal of the program, benchmarks are being determined to mark progress points and determine which activities are the most effective.

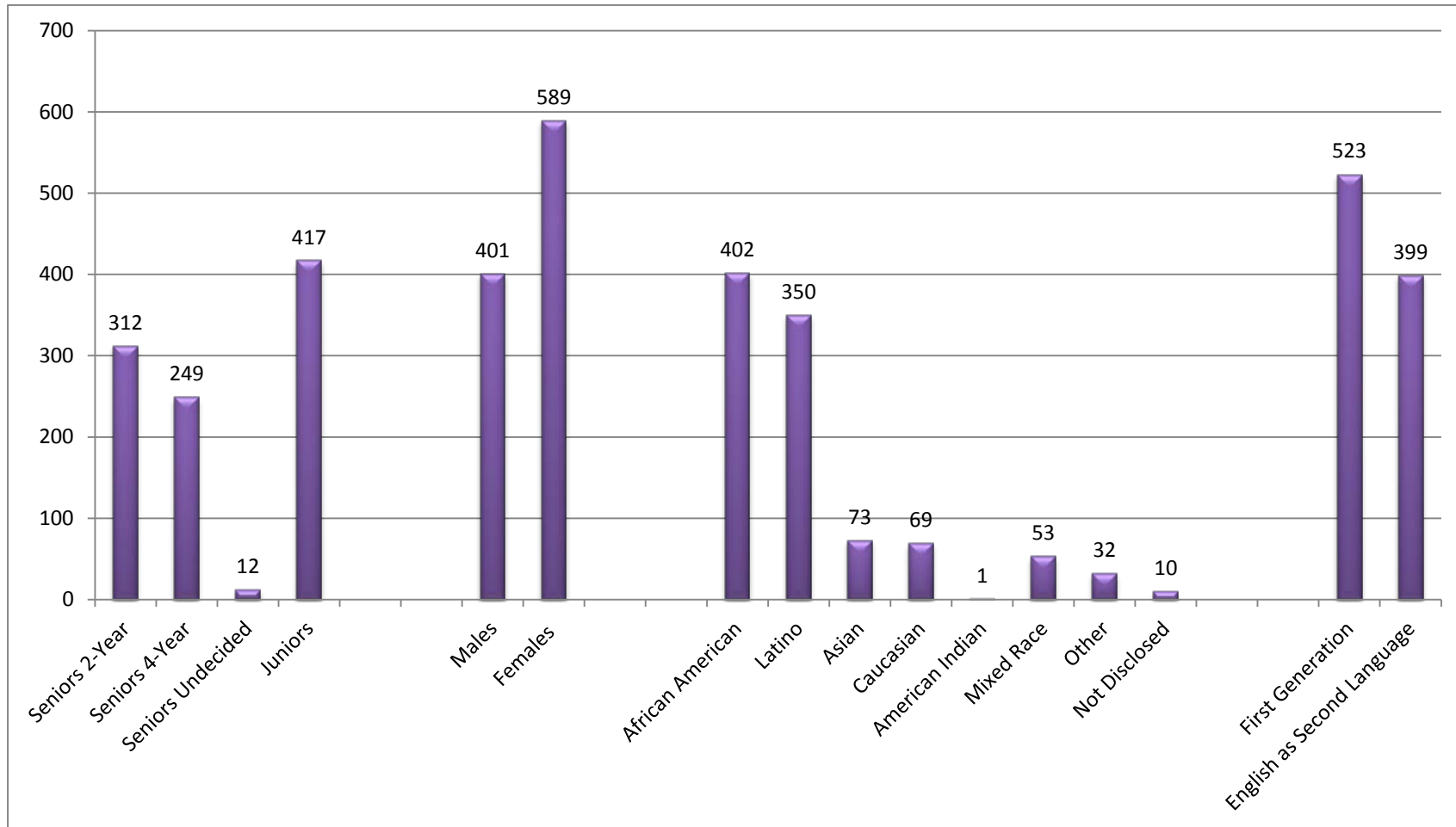
TASK FORCE

The ACES Task Force continues to meet on a regular basis to provide guidance and direction to the program. Representatives from each institutional sponsor represent a cross-section of the educational areas that are stakeholders in the ACES program.



ACES Student Demographics

990 Students



ACHIEVING COLLEGIATE EXCELLENCE AND SUCCESS

A HIGH SCHOOL TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO FOUR-YEAR
INSTITUTION PARTNERSHIP IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

A Partnership of

- *Montgomery County Public Schools*
- *Montgomery College*
- *The Universities at Shady Grove/The University System of Maryland*



May 5, 2014

WHAT IS THE ACES PROGRAM?

- ACES is a collaborative program among Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Montgomery College (MC) , the Universities at Shady Grove (USG)/the University System of Maryland (USM).
- The program seeks to increase access and create a seamless pathway from high school through college completion.
- ACES focuses on identifying and supporting underrepresented students and those who are the first in their family to attend college.
- Program provides three levels of integrated and coordinated support:
 - **Level 1:** Preparing for Success in College—MCPS
 - **Level 2:** Supporting Success at MC
 - **Level 3:** Fostering Success Beyond MC—USG



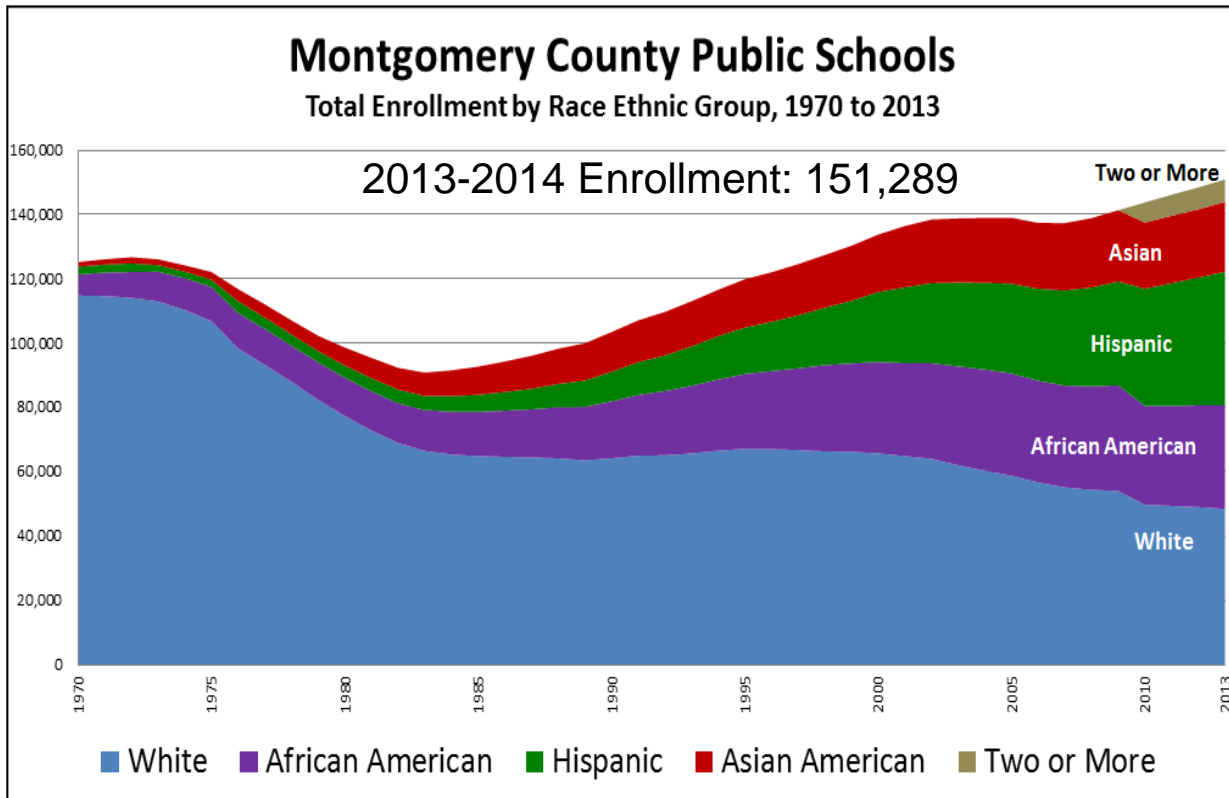
ACES IS ESTABLISHED-SEPTEMBER 2012

- MCPS-MC-USG Memorandum of Understanding
 - Governance
 - Roles and Responsibilities
 - Data and Evaluation
 - Funding

- Fall 2013: 10 MC academic coaches in MCPS high schools



SETTING THE STAGE FOR ACES



KEY PROGRAM INTERVENTIONS

- Montgomery College academic coaches located at the high schools
- One-stop, case management approach
- Financial aid assistance, program-specific grants and scholarships
- Learning community/cohort-building model that begins in high school and continues through degree completion
- Summer experience programs about career interest and college transition
- Early and continuous investment by all participating institutions in student success



STUDENT PROGRESS & SUCCESS - ASSESSMENT

- Student engagement in ACES activities & support services
- Successful transitioning from high school to college
- Earned college credit in the first year at the MC or Maryland college attended
- Retention between semesters and from year-to-year in all subsequent years
- Good academic standing after each grading period
- Career & business experiential opportunities (e.g., Internships)
- Financial aid (as needed)
- College degree completion (Associates and Baccalaureate)



CRITICAL ELEMENTS FOR ACES SUCCESS

- Rapidly-changing diverse population
- Robust local economy
- Strong community support for higher education
- Primary funding from community college and local government
- Strong integrated partnership among MCPS, MC and USG:
 - Cohesive vision from 9th grade through baccalaureate degree
 - Top-down priority for program foundation and success
 - Persistent cross-institutional planning and implementation
 - Integrated data-driven decision making (program assessment & student progress)

