

## NATIONAL FRESHMAN SUCCESS INSTITUTE

### Improving High School Graduation Rates

Starting this June, the University of Chicago's Network for College Success will host the second annual National Freshman Success Institute. For over a decade, educators have been hearing about "Freshman On-Track" and the critical nature of freshman year from the UChicago Consortium on School Research (the Consortium). For almost that long, educators have been moved by the findings and compelled to ask, "But what can I do about it?" This year, the Network for College Success will bring together school teams from across the country to share our practical wisdom, accumulated over decades of school improvement work, to support your efforts to build a freshman success program in your school or district.

More than a conference, the seven-day Institute is a unique opportunity to engage with a broad community of educators in a highly interactive, professional learning experience. Sessions will be led by expert facilitators, researchers, and practitioners with a proven track record of developing sustainable systems and structures that will improve On-Track and high school graduation rates for all students.

#### Examine Research and Analyze Data

Hear from Dr. Elaine Allensworth, Lewis-Sebring Director of the Consortium, on her groundbreaking research findings on freshman year and the staggering success of the movement in Chicago that resulted in a twenty-four percent increase in On-Track rates over a decade. Work with your team to make meaning of this research and apply it to your school or district. Develop effective indicators of freshman success and analyze your student data while learning how to use protocols that support effective team practices.

#### Develop Strong Leadership and Teams

Develop the capacity of leaders and team members to implement freshman success work. Utilize the Freshman Success Framework to assess your school's current supports for freshmen. Explore new methods for mitigating course failure and increasing post-secondary readiness for all students. Discover protocols for leveraging distributed leadership to create high-functioning teams.

#### Translate Ideas into Action

Learn from Chicago practitioners on how they implement freshman success practices in their schools. Visit Network for College Success partner schools, where you will observe educator teams in action. Interact with administrators, teachers, counselors, data strategists, and students who are engaged in multiple phases of the work. Develop a team plan for executing these practices and consult with Network for College Success experts to bring the ideas to life in your local context.

"This learning will make a life changing difference for untold numbers of students from all walks of life."

*—Molly Schaefer, Principal*

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Contact Jacquelyn Lemon, Co-Director  
[JLEMON@UCHICAGO.EDU](mailto:JLEMON@UCHICAGO.EDU)

## 2018-19 Curriculum Overview

	Session I (June)	Session II (October)	Session III (January)
Examine Research and Analyze Data	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learn about the foundational research behind Freshman On-Track from Consortium researchers</li> <li>2. Develop school and/or district indicators of freshman success</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analyze your school's freshman success data</li> <li>2. Develop strategies and tools for creating interventions for students who need support</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learn about the latest developments in the Consortium's research on freshman success</li> <li>2. Share your school's freshman success results with the Institute learning community</li> </ol>
Develop Strong Leadership and Teams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learn the key principles for leveraging team structures for school improvement</li> <li>2. Explore the Freshman Success Framework and assess your current practices for supporting students as they transition into high school</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Examine research-based texts on how to enact change and transformation within school teams</li> <li>2. Deepen your team's understanding of the Freshman Success Framework and refine your school or district plan for supporting freshmen year-round</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support fellow participants in a problem-solving conversation around dilemmas in the day-to-day work</li> <li>2. Engage in consultation with Network for College Success experts to fine-tune plans for taking up the work in your school or district</li> </ol>
Translate Ideas into Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hear from a panel of policy and practice experts in the field</li> <li>2. Collaborate with your team to develop an action plan to bring the learning back to your school or district</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visit Network for College Success partner schools that model effective freshman success practices</li> <li>2. Reflect with colleagues on how to apply these lessons from the field to your local context</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visit Network for College Success partner schools that model effective freshman success practices</li> <li>2. Determine final action plan to carry and sustain the lessons of the Institute for you school and/or district</li> </ol>

### Professional Learning Objectives

Participants will improve high school graduation rates by:

1. Identifying the key research-based levers that support students as they transition into high school
2. Assessing and reflecting on the effectiveness of current practices
3. Exploring methods for using data to improve student outcomes
4. Integrating proven resources and tools in your day-to-day work
5. Engaging in professional learning and the candid exchange of ideas and feedback
6. Challenging one another to think and lead towards continuous improvement
7. Developing actionable plans and strategies that can be integrated in your school or district

### Resources and Support

Your team will receive practical tools and ongoing support, including:

- ✓ A framework for developing sustainable systems and structures for freshman success
- ✓ Protocols that support team development and effective data use
- ✓ Training modules to guide professional development in your school or district
- ✓ Promising practices to implement immediately
- ✓ Ongoing, personalized consultations with expert Network for College Success Coaches and Data Strategists between Institute sessions
- ✓ Professional relationships maintained through a national community of practice
- ✓ Guidance from practitioners in the field
- ✓ For Illinois participants, Administrator Academy and clock-hour credits are available

[ncs.uchicago.edu](http://ncs.uchicago.edu)

t | 773-702-3094

e | [ncs-info@ssa.uchicago.edu](mailto:ncs-info@ssa.uchicago.edu)

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