

National Training for Counselors and Mentors

Funding Education
Beyond High School



Academic Year
2009-10

2009-2010 Program Year Evaluation Summary

August 2009

Executive Summary

The majority of participants of the National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) 2009-10 program were very pleased with the training sessions and materials. The feedback presented in this summary confirms that 1) there is a need for NT4CM, 2) the program content was useful, and 3) participants want the program to continue in future years.

Overall 2009-10 Program Statistics

Sixteen states and the District of Columbia participated in the 2009-10 program. Ten states and the District of Columbia opted for “full” participation (implemented the entire training) and six states chose to be “curriculum” participants (incorporated parts of the NT4CM curriculum into existing training sessions—e.g. *FAFSA4caster*, Academic Competitiveness Grant).

Six states and the District of Columbia provided final statistics on the training sessions conducted that included at least part of the NT4CM curriculum. In total, these states and the District trained 757 participants in 35 training sessions. The remaining ten states anticipated projected attendance of over 4,800 participants.

An approximate total of 3,119 participant guides and 102 instructor manuals were distributed to all ten “full” states and the District of Columbia. Both the participant guide and instructor manual were translated into Spanish and were made available upon request.

Training Satisfaction Survey Data Summary

Participants

Five “full” states (Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Mississippi, and West Virginia) and the District of Columbia (also “full”) returned completed Training Satisfaction Surveys. Two “curriculum” states (Maine and Illinois) also returned completed Training Satisfaction Surveys. The percentages referenced below were calculated from the total 781 respondent base unless otherwise specified.

High school counselors (67%) were well over half the participants. Of the remaining participants, 11% were from non-profit organizations and community-based groups, 8% were TRIO, and 1% were junior high school counselors. The remaining 13% of participants indicated “other.”

Most of the participants were relatively inexperienced in providing assistance to students to pursue education beyond high school, with 1-5 years experience (49%). Of the remaining participants, 24% had 6-10 years, 12% had 20+ years, 7% had 11-15 years, and 8% had 16-20 years of experience.

Curriculum

Participants evaluated the program using the following scale:

- 1 Unacceptable
- 2 Poor/Less than acceptable
- 3 Moderate/Acceptable
- 4 Good/More than acceptable
- 5 Outstanding/Much more than acceptable

The curriculum received consistently high marks from respondents. More than half of the participants responded “outstanding” (59%) and 38% responded “good/more than acceptable” when asked if the training met their needs for assisting students to prepare financially for college. When asked how well the training met the overall objectives stated at the beginning of the workshop, 70% responded “outstanding” and 27% responded “good/more than acceptable.”

Sixty-nine percent responded “outstanding” when asked to rate the NT4CM materials. When asked to evaluate the case studies, charts, and other graphic illustrations, 58% responded “outstanding.” Sixty-eight percent of participants also rated the presentation’s clarity and accuracy “outstanding.”

The Training Satisfaction Survey also provided participants with the opportunity to comment on the trainers and the facilities. Since NT4CM did not secure the trainers or the facilities, this data was assessed at the state level.

Outreach and Publicity

Most of the participants learned about the training through e-mail (48%). Twenty-four percent learned of it from a colleague, 9% from a postcard, 9% from other sources (letter, flyer, mailing, fsa4counselors.ed.gov, NACAC, school services), and 9% from a Web site (unspecified).

Additional Comments and Suggestions

When asked what additional training participants would like to be provided, the following suggestions were made:

- More in-depth FAFSA training (28%)
- Training on loans/grants/scholarships (24%)
- Information for a parents/students “Financial Aid Night” (22%)
- Personal trainings at schools/campuses (15%)
- College admission process (2%)

Most participants did not think the training needed to be offered in other formats or mediums (73%). The remaining respondents suggested other options such as:

- Webinar (21%)
- Online training (2%)
- Training on CD/DVD/Video (4%)

Quotes from Participants

“Excellent presentations! Very informative. Continue to offer these workshops.”

“This workshop is very beneficial for counselors so we are aware of any financial aid changes to inform our students.”

“Thanks, this session is helpful. I feel ready to help my students with the FAFSA and their questions.”

“Thank you so much for a comprehensive workshop. The information was presented in a format that was so beneficial to me.”

“Wonderful. This was the first financial aid workshop where I actually left understanding what was talked about.”

Participating States (*Full Participant)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| - Arkansas* | - Hawaii* | - Louisiana | - Mississippi* |
| - District of Columbia* | - Illinois | - Maine | - Texas |
| - Florida* | - Iowa | - Massachusetts* | - Utah* |
| - Georgia* | - Kentucky* | - Michigan | - Washington* |
| | | | - West Virginia* |