

# Oklahoma College Access Network (OK-CAN) Meeting

## October 12, 2012

### ***Using Network Strategies to Unite College Access Efforts of Education, Business, and Community Partners to Engage the Underserved and Unprepared***

*Hosted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, GEAR UP and the Oklahoma College Assistance Program*

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Breakfast and Registration

(Breakfast: Eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, cheese blintzes with fresh strawberry sauce, pastries, coffee, soda and water)

9:00 am – 9:05 am

Welcome and Introduction of Presenters

9:05 am – 10:20 am

Greg Darnieder, Senior Advisor to the Secretary on the College Access Initiative, U.S. Department of Education

As we all know, many times a student's decision in seeking an education beyond high school is highly influenced by his or her high school counselor, a mentor, or someone in the business or community where they live. When these student and family resources are leveraged together to create a successful network of partners with the same goal in mind, we see larger enrollment numbers, higher retention rates and more graduates; we ALL benefit. Greg will share his ideas for engaging education and business professionals that support or promote college access to reach all populations, especially the diverse population of underserved students that need a higher level of attention. He looks forward to audience input and participation for feedback on ways the Department of Education can continue to support these very important efforts.

10:20 am – 10:40 am

Break

10:40 am – 12:00 pm

Shannon Presti, Director of Teen Leadership Initiatives, YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City

Many times, the difference between a child or young adult "listening to" or "actually hearing" a message depends greatly on another person's ability to truly connect with them. Understanding cultural differences and backgrounds between educators and students can create a better path for communication, leading to students' ability to understand what an education beyond high school can help them achieve. Shannon's passion for assisting teens is demonstrated every day in her current position at the YMCA to help urban youth graduate high school and achieve higher education. Eager to become a better facilitator in urban classrooms, Shannon pursued her master's degree in Urban Education and completed her thesis work in the area of Urban Classroom Behavior Management, focusing on the cultural aspects of schooling. Join Shannon to hear how you can better understand the different cultures of the students with whom you work so they can "hear" your message that college IS within their reach.

12:00 pm

Adjournment