

NNCO Survey Findings

After one year of managing the National Network of Constituent Organizations (Network), the National High School Alliance (HS Alliance) conducted a survey of Network members in order to assess progress and plan for the second year of the project. Participants were queried about the impact of the Network and the relevance and usefulness of its resources and areas of focus. Participants were also provided with an opportunity to offer suggestions for new resources or topics for focus in the coming year. These findings are based on an analysis of survey responses.

- **All member organizations agree that the Network is helping them to do the following:**
 - collaborate and coordinate with other Network members
 - learn about ongoing work in the Honor States and ADP States.
- **Five out of six member organizations agree that the Network is helping them to learn about high school redesign issues and build their capacity to advance the NGA/Achieve Action Agenda in their own organizations.**
- **All of the organizations have been able to use and apply Network information, strategies, and resources in their work.** Following are examples:
 - **CCSSO** has shared Achieve's and NGA's initiatives and resources at member meetings with state education agency officials.
 - **NAACP** is currently developing a parent handbook that will include recommendations related to curriculum rigor and college preparedness.
 - Several of the organizations use information about the work of the other organizations and future publications for planning their own activities.
- **Network organizations vary in their opinions of the usefulness of various components of the meeting agendas depending upon their missions and constituents.**
 - Four out of six Network organizations find time for informal networking and collaboration to be most useful.
 - All six of the organizations found the issue-focused discussions to be useful, but had recommendations for making them more

relevant to Network members. Suggestions included the following:

- Discussions should be more focused on actual work going on in the states.
- Discussions should focus on issues that Network representatives can affect (i.e. they can't take a position on rigor for their organization).
- Organizations are equally split on their opinions of the usefulness of the Updates portion of the meeting agendas. Several of the Network members provided suggestions for improving this portion of the meetings.
 - Achieve and NGA could provide handouts in advance of the meetings and the actual meeting could focus on questions and responses to the material in the handouts.
 - Other Network members felt the presentations should be sure to clarify the goals of the work and framework within which the work was taking place.
- **Organizations vary in their suggestions for Network focus for next year depending upon their missions and needs.**
 - Two organizations requested that the HS Alliance develop policy briefs on relevant topics.
 - Two organizations requested more state-focused work and resources while another requested hands on tools for parents and community leaders.
 - One organization requested a master plan that shows the Network's overall strategy and provides a comprehensive picture for how each organization's work fits into the whole.

Implications for Future Work

The HS Alliance is taking a number of steps to respond to this feedback and ensure the Network is meeting the needs of participants.

- **Greater focus on state-specific issues**

The HS Alliance plans to work closely with Honor States leaders to focus more of its work on state-specific issues and challenges and opportunities for Network assistance. Issue-based discussions, briefs, and other resources will have a greater focus on state-specific challenges and Network members' work in the states.

- **Development of new resources and products**

The HS Alliance is working on developing a variety of new resources and products that meet the different needs of Network members and respond to

their ideas and suggestions. Resources and products will include issue briefs, short reports, assessment tools, and compilations of links and references.

- **Designing meeting agendas**

The HS Alliance is considering Network members' input in developing future meeting agendas and will continue to ensure the focus of future meetings reflects members' interests and concerns. By providing meeting participants with relevant resources and information, the HS Alliance will maximize the productivity of future meetings and ensure they build on outcomes from prior meetings. Some more specific next steps include revising the format of the Updates portion of the meetings to ensure they are useful to all members and continuing to provide time for informal networking.