

Our Children, Our Families Council

Summary of UniteSF

(Last updated 4/27/15)

Goals of the Effort

UniteSF represents a commitment by San Francisco leaders to support collaborated change in our approach to students' preparation for college and the 21st century global economy and workplace. Not a program but rather a convening entity, UniteSF serves as an intermediary to bring together committed partners around common goals. UniteSF will support multi-organization partnerships and networks within one umbrella entity. Partners to UniteSF make a public commitment to three common education goals:

1. A high-school graduation rate of 100%.
2. Upon graduation, every student is prepared for college or skilled vocational programs, and has the access and support to achieve higher education.
3. All students have pathways to sustainable jobs and careers.

Focal Population of the Effort

UniteSF is focused on K-12 education in San Francisco, but focus is placed on 6th grade through high school graduation and college or career placement. As indicated by the goals listed above, UniteSF is most concerned with students being prepared to succeed upon graduating. Because current graduation and college matriculation rates are lowest among low-income and minority students, UniteSF is paying special attention to improving outcomes within these two demographic groups.

Impact

Because UniteSF was officially launched by Mayor Lee on March 3rd of 2015, the organization is still in its outreach phase. Within its first three months, UniteSF has formalized 18 Signing Partners, a Stewardship Council, and a Business-Education Advisory Council for the group. Getting these diverse stakeholders together to focus on shared outcomes constitutes an important first step for UniteSF.

Challenges

Because UniteSF is using a collective impact model, it is relying on stakeholders from different sectors to commit to a common agenda. Pleasing all of these stakeholders, each of whom has slightly different interests and perspectives, has been a continual challenge for UniteSF.

Origins of the Effort

In recognition of the fact that education and career readiness is an important issue for many stakeholders across the city, Mayor Lee launched UniteSF on March 4th of 2015 as a convening entity designed to bring together a wide array of constituencies interested in a collaborated change in San Francisco's approach to student's preparation for college and the 21st century global economy and workplace. Development of the original idea within the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce began behind the scenes in 2014.

Leading the Effort

UniteSF has a Stewardship Council of leaders from city government, SFUSD, higher education, business, and non-profits to help shape and carry out UniteSF's vision. Responsibility for the initiative, however, is largely in the hands of Ms. Taryn Taddeo, the only full-time staff member working on getting UniteSF off the ground. Her position is technically Director, Small Business & Strategic Partnerships within the SF Chamber of Commerce, and in these early stages of UniteSF, she is focused on securing funding for the initiative and facilitating a common vision among UniteSF partners.

Members of the Effort

In addition to Taryn, the one full-time staff member, UniteSF is comprised of a Stewardship Council of 17 individuals each representing one of UniteSF's Signing Partner organizations.

Stewardship Council:

Hydra Mendoza, Office of the Mayor
Todd Rufo, Office of Economic & Workforce Development
Maria Su, Department of Children Youth & Their Families
Laura Moran, San Francisco Unified School District
Virginia Parra, City College of San Francisco
Paul Takayama, University of California San Francisco
Nancy Stewart, University of California Hastings Law
Stacy McAfee, University of the Pacific
Shawn Whalen, San Francisco State
Tasi Neeve, Golden Gate University
Eric McDonnell, United Way Bay Area
Jay Banfield, YearUp
Alexandra Bernadotte, Beyond 12
Celeste Alleyne, Microsoft
Katie Ferrick, LinkedIn
Scott Adams, Comcast
Tim Paulson, San Francisco Labor Council

Structure of the Effort

Because it is still a new initiative, UniteSF has not yet established a formal meeting schedule for the Stewardship Council. As of April 27, 2015, the Council had convened one time for its first meeting, and they had identified next steps for both Ms. Taddeo, the SF Chamber of Commerce, and for members of the Council. Once the members finalize their strategic priorities for the next three years, they will then develop a meeting schedule that supports the three year plan.

The Role of Data

UniteSF will not collect its own data, but many of its Signing Partners, such as SFUSD and the City & County of San Francisco, already collect data related to educational, college, and career outcomes for children and young adults in the city. UniteSF intends to rely heavily on data to inform and evaluate its efforts.

Related Documents

- Informational Flyer, online at: <https://sfchamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/UniteSF_info_flyer.pdf>
- Official UniteSF page on the SF Chamber of Commerce website <<https://sfchamber.com/initiatives/unite-sf/>>