



JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE

Director, Arizona Center for Student Success (AZCSS)

BACKGROUND

Mounting evidence suggests that a postsecondary credential will be a prerequisite for a majority of jobs in the future, resulting in growing consensus from policymakers, experts, and foundations to increase educational attainment to meet labor market demands and global competition. Arizona is not immune from these pressures and, over the past several years, community colleges across the state have responded by intensifying efforts to improve student outcomes. The challenge, given the decentralized nature of higher education in Arizona, has been that college innovations have often occurred in isolation on individual campuses. In 2018, the Arizona Community College Coordinating Council sought to remedy this situation by establishing the Arizona Center for Student Success (AZCSS). Through initial grants from the Arizona Governor's Office, Helios Foundation, Arizona Community Foundation, Burton Foundation, and Pima County Community College Foundation, and ongoing support from Arizona's 10 community colleges, AZCSS serves as an intermediary between colleges and provides greater opportunities for colleges to collaborate and learn from one another.

The vision of AZCSS is to provide state-level support to colleges by serving as a hub connecting leaders, administrators, faculty, and staff in their emerging and ongoing efforts to improve student outcomes by emphasizing linkages between practice, research, and policy. AZCSS sponsors activities to improve the completion rates of students who enroll at Arizona's community colleges based on the following goals:

1. Support the core policy function of the Arizona Community College Coordinating Council.
2. Organize practice oriented peer-learning activities for faculty, staff, and leadership
3. Providing assistance to the colleges in meeting their data and research needs.

DIRECT REPORT

The Director works under the direction of the President of Arizona Community College Coordinating Council.

MAJOR JOB FUNCTIONS

- Provide overall leadership and management of AZCSS
- Sustain/expand buy-in from the colleges for an overarching student success agenda
- Facilitate ongoing dialogue with the AZCSS Advisory Committee to ensure timely progress toward the implement implementation of the existing three-year strategic plan



- Foster an ongoing student success-focused policy agenda for the State of Arizona and the 10 community college districts and support AZCSS efforts to influence relevant legislation
- Leverage the state data system to meet the data needs of the colleges and build research partnerships with the universities in the state
- Oversee the implementation of high-quality convenings such as the annual Student Success Summit, quarterly Arizona Student Success Network meetings, regional faculty conversations, and other emerging professional development opportunities
- Direct the numerous initiatives managed by the AZCSS and ensure timely grant reporting to the respective funders
- Participate in relevant national convenings and networks as appropriate
- Establish a stronger marketing/public relations strategy, ensuring AZCSS's mission and accomplishments are presented in a strong, positive image to relevant stakeholders
- Direct the AZCSS staff
- Manage several consulting relationships for ongoing projects and initiatives
- Manage the annual AZCSS budget and allocate available resources to support the organizational mission and goals
- Lead fundraising efforts by identifying additional resource needs, researching funding opportunities, establishing relationships with funders, and crafting funding proposals
- Oversee the ongoing assessment of AZCSS's work and effectiveness

QUALIFICATIONS

- Minimum of a Master's degree in relevant discipline
- Experience with and deep knowledge of student success and completion issues including institutional, state and national policy as well as related data issues
- Experience soliciting and managing grants and working with private philanthropy
- Experience working with community college trustees, administrators, and faculty
- Ability to work in a complex environment with large teams of professionals
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing

COMPENSATION

Negotiable and commensurate with experience.

HOW TO APPLY

Please email a copy of your resume, cover letter, and three professional references to Dr. Colleen Smith (Colleen.Smith@coconino.edu). Applications welcome until position is filled. Review of applications will begin on April 1, 2019.