



OBJECTIVE: To help adults in the Kansas City region earn a college degree or high-quality certificate.

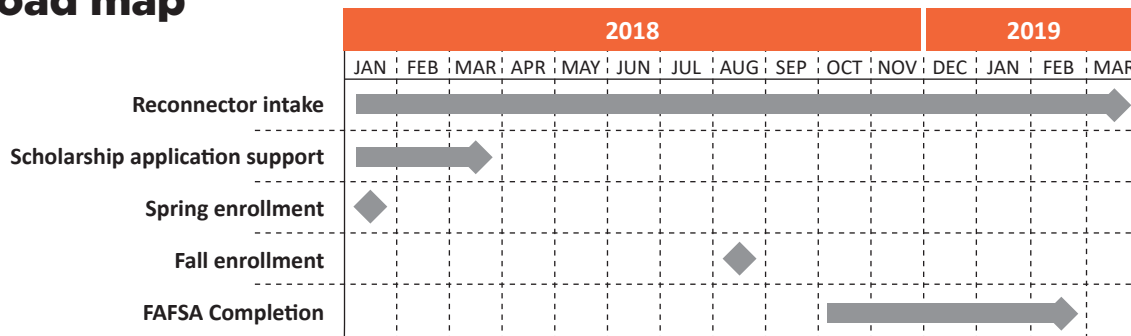
OWNER: KC Degrees — Mid-America Regional Council

QUARTERLY UPDATE | SEPTEMBER 2018

KC Degrees

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	NEXT STEPS	SUSTAINABILITY
<p>249 Reconnectors (adult learners) enrolled in the fall 2018 term, an increase of 62 since fall 2017. 30 have graduated since inception.</p> <p>88 percent persistence and 48.9 percent STEM degrees.</p> <p>80 percent female, 66 percent people of color (Black & Hispanic).</p> <p>KC Degrees launched “The Navigator” newsletter available at http://eepurl.com/dG8NP5.</p>	<p>Kansas City is the host for the annual convening of the Graduate! Network (30 sites around the nation) on Oct. 18-19. KC Rising will be featured through a panel discussion and an evening reception.</p> <p>The annual marketing and outreach plan is being implemented October 2018 through February 2019.</p> <p>A business advisory board is being established to help guide KC Degrees in connecting graduates to work and further engagement of business partners.</p> <p>Strengthening connections to student support services on campus with scheduled site visits.</p> <p>Funding has been secured to conduct a national study around Reconnector strategies (returning adult learners). The study will review various models in 12 locations and examine sustainability, structure and scale. The KC Degrees case study is expected to be completed by December 2018.</p>	<p>Institutional debt has been a major barrier to Reconnectors ability to return and finish. An additional \$50K over two years has been secured to be applied to debt forgiveness and four institutions have adopted debt forgiveness policies despite earlier resistance. The debt forgiveness strategies will be featured at the November convening of the Postsecondary Network.</p> <p>The Project Coordinator has secured a business engagement agreement with Savage Group LLC that runs multiple McDonald’s franchises.</p> <p>A bilingual navigator began employment in August and is working on an outreach strategy to the Latino community.</p>

Road map



Metrics

- 560 Reconnectors (active adult learners).
- 249 enrolled Reconnectors (44 percent of total), an increase of 62 from fall 2017 to fall 2018.
- 88 percent persistence from fall to spring semesters (35 percentage points above the national average)
- 30 graduates to date, with 37 percent continuing to pursue higher degree attainment.
- Working toward a 75 percent completion rate.