The New York City DOE/ CUNY Library Collaborative:
Bridging the Gap Between High School and College

Executive Summary

The Challenge

Educators across the country are deploying innovative strategies to engage students to complete high school and to build foundations for college and career success in the 21st Century. The imperative is driven by high school dropout rates and by high school graduates who are not equipped for the rigors of college-level studies or career/trade educational programs.

The challenge is to engage high school students in learning to sustain their education and to position them as college students who will be expected to acquire knowledge, analyze and evaluate information, explore ideas (in depth and in a logical manner), draw conclusions, and test theories. Students must be equipped to think creatively and critically and to conduct meaningful research that leads to understanding through discovery. Unfortunately, too many of our students graduate from high school without these skills.

To help address these problems, New York City’s Department of Education (NYCDOE) and the City University of New York (CUNY) formed a collaboration. Since such a high percentage of NYC high school graduates go on to CUNY colleges, this presents a unique opportunity to measure the impact of the work. The NYCDOE/CUNY Library Collaborative includes high school teachers, media specialists, college faculty, and librarians who are vested in bridging the gap between high school and college.

The Collaborative strives to improve educational outcomes for students in ways that benefit both librarians and educators. The Collaborative demonstrates that librarians can and should play a central role in building the “pipeline” between institutions to develop an inquiry-centered model of education.

The Goal

The NYCDOE/CUNY Library Collective’s goal is to be agents of change not only within their own institutions, but nationally as well. The hope is that institutions across the country will adapt the work and ideas presented in this white paper series to close learning gaps in their schools and districts as well.
Bridging the Gap between High School & College

High school students are not graduating with the skills they need to survive college.

79% of overall students entering CUNY's community colleges in Fall 2012 required remedial coursework in college.

Challenge: Bridge the gap between High School & College

First Year Challenge - Finding the right resources to help new students prepare college level research.

1/3 of universities have roughly 19x the number of resources than school libraries.

Libraries Matter - Students who use the library had an average GPA of 3.18 where those who did not had an average of 2.98.

3.18 > 2.98

Addressing these issues with the collaboration project

The beginning - One high school and one college (CUNY) met to redesign curriculum.

Collaboration Project is born - Common goal: to ensure students can succeed in college. Librarians & instructors focused on necessary research and writing skills.

Result - By familiarizing high school students with resources like Artemis they will be more successful when confronted with resources in college. A White Paper was developed to share this project.

Intent - Other metropolitan areas can replicate & use the White Paper as a "How To" Guide.