

Evaluation of the Connecticut Health and Life Sciences Initiative: January 2016 Interim Report

Presentation to the HL-SCI Advisory Board

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Interim Evaluation Report – Overview

- Describes HL-SCI implementation across the consortium since the last interim report, as well as case studies at:
 - Manchester
 - Norwalk
- Results include:
 - Updated, aggregate data on HL-SCI progress toward goals
 - Document analysis of case study programs
 - Findings from interviews and focus groups conducted during site visits (including interviews with students in case study programs)
 - Summary of a survey grant staff administered to students in math and science boosters (by semester and college)

Efforts to Increase Interview and Focus Group Participation

- Recruitment process began earlier in the semester
- Close coordination with curriculum innovation coordinators to schedule focus groups
- Larger sample targeted for recruitment
- Additional recruitment focused on flagship programs
- Extensive follow-up process during recruitment
- Lunch provided

General Findings

- The HL-SCI consortium has met, exceeded, or is on track to meet all deliverable goals outlined in the original proposal to the US Department of Labor
- Focus group and interview participants are satisfied generally with their courses and programs and would recommend them to others
- What students like most about their programs:
 - Hands-on, interactive, and relevant coursework
 - “Fantastic,” dedicated, and accessible professors
 - Clinical opportunities
 - Rapport among students
 - Student outcomes (e.g., success on licensing exams)
- Student challenges include:
 - Time management and balancing school with job and family obligations
 - Learning a large amount of material in a short period of time
 - Navigation of the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) system

General Findings – Suggested Improvements

At Manchester:

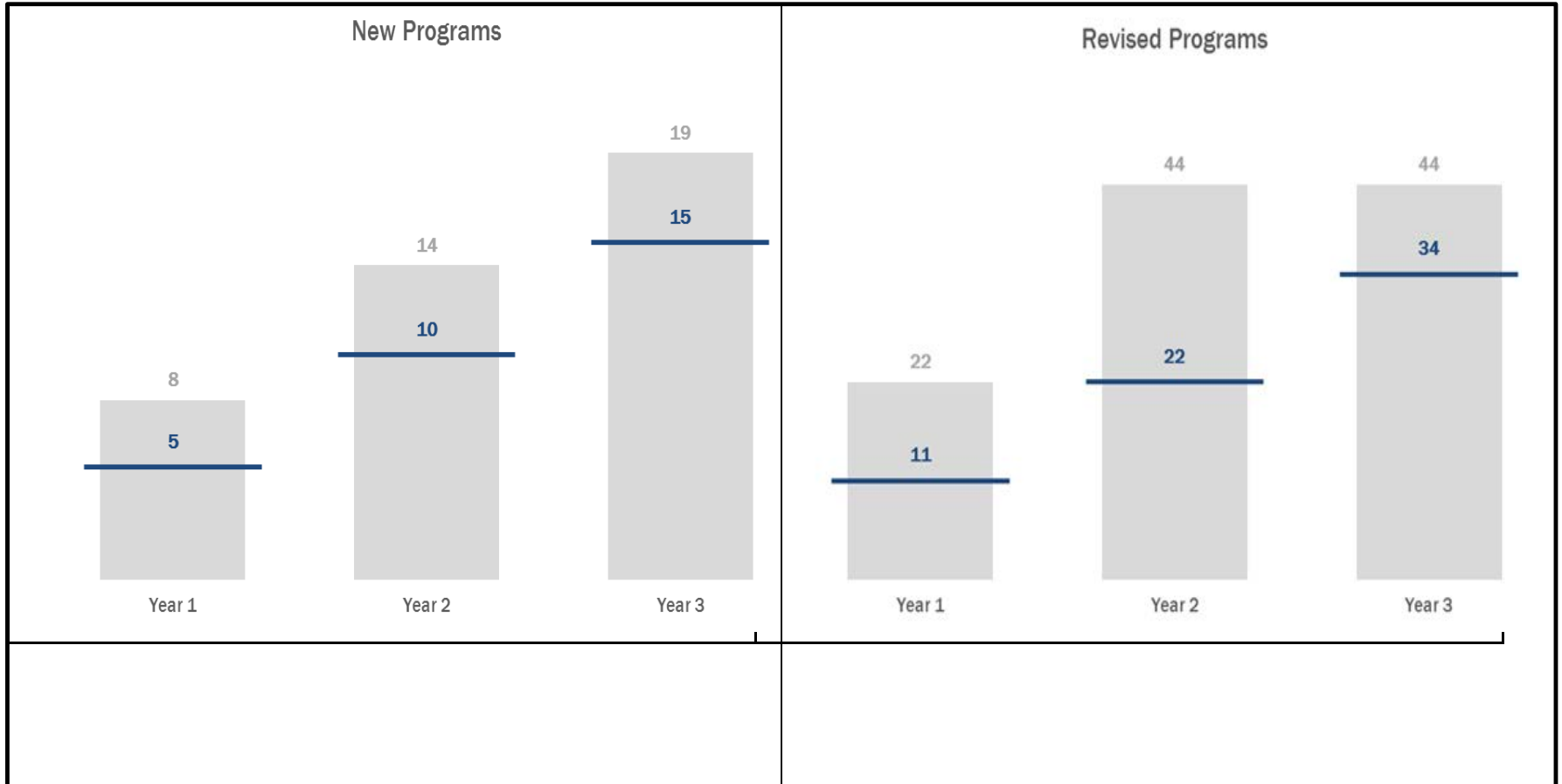
- Schedule classes so they are convenient to working professionals and offered on the same days so that students are able to make fewer trips to campus
- Clarify the prior learning assessment process
- Increase the Internet bandwidth availability and access to computers on campus for accessing course materials

At Norwalk:

- Clarify the prior learning assessment process and how credits are awarded
- Provide more career guidance
- Address issues associated with larger cohort in the nursing program

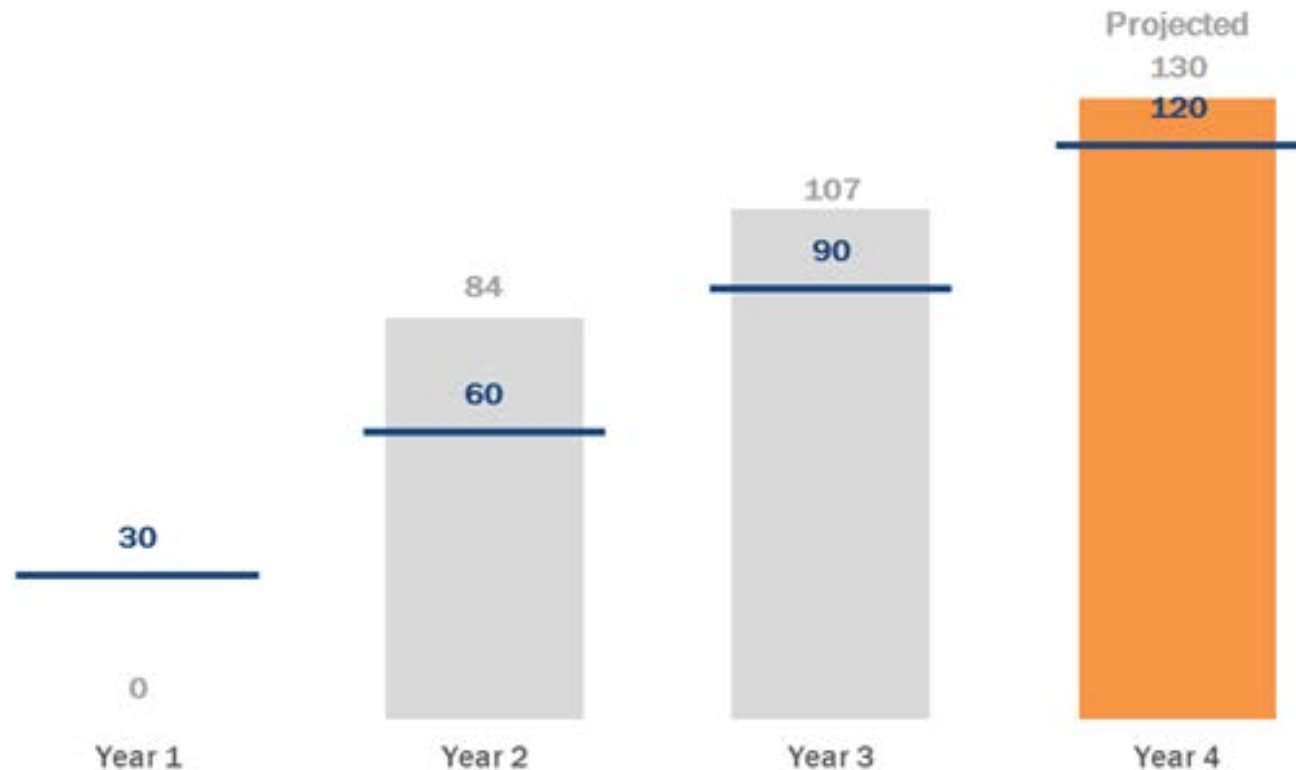
Development & Revision of Programs - Goals

- Total grant goals for new and revised programs have already been exceeded



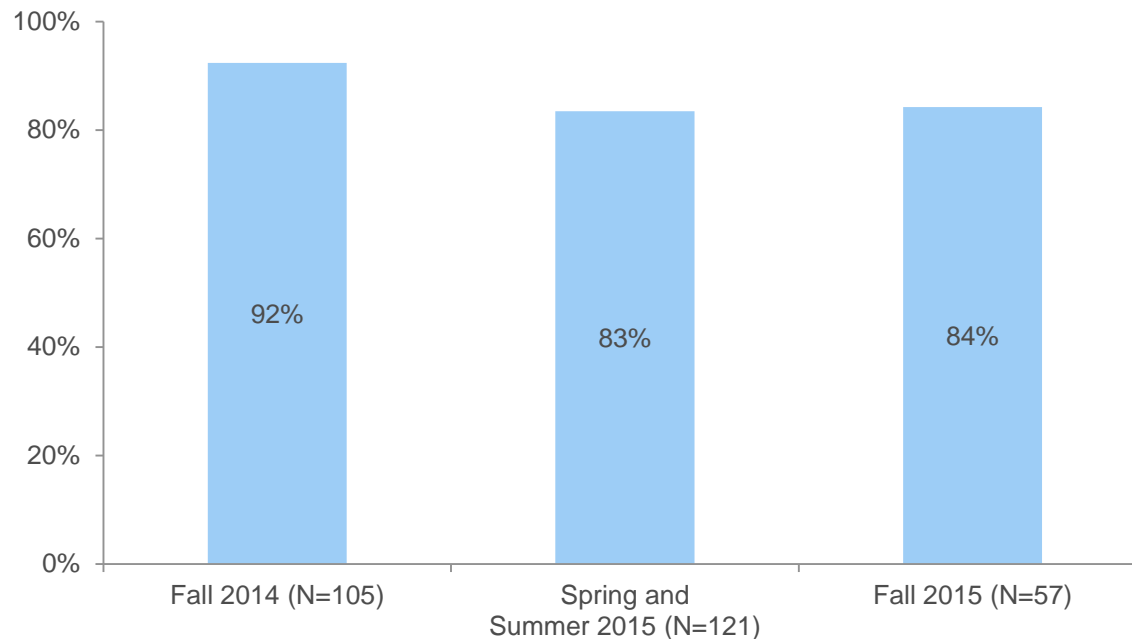
Math & Science Booster Modules - Goals

- Boosters are being implemented at all 5 campuses, and the consortium is on-track to exceed the grant goal



Math & Science Booster Modules - Feedback

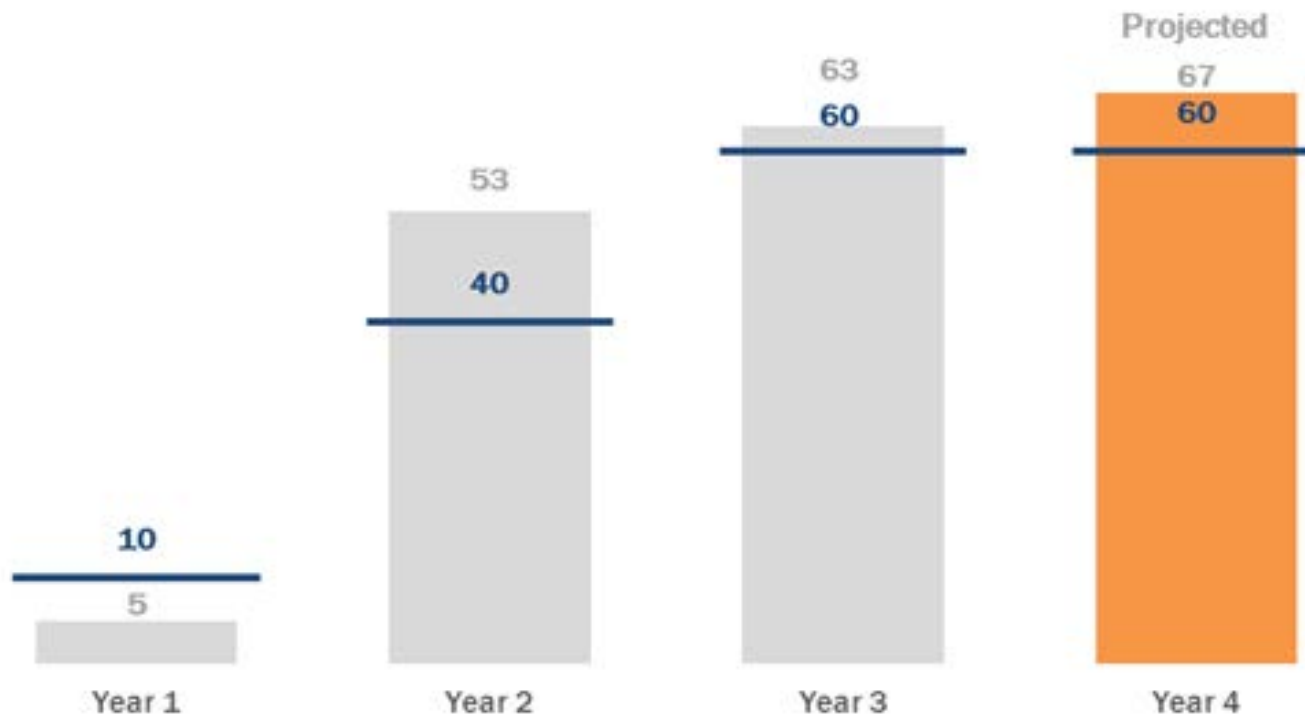
- Student Survey on math and science booster modules
 - Most students would recommend the boosters to others:



- Most students agreed the boosters were appropriately challenging and increased their understanding of content
- Students would like boosters to provide additional opportunities to quiz themselves and more multimedia content

Online & Hybrid Courses - Goals

- The consortium has already exceeded its goals for online and hybrid courses

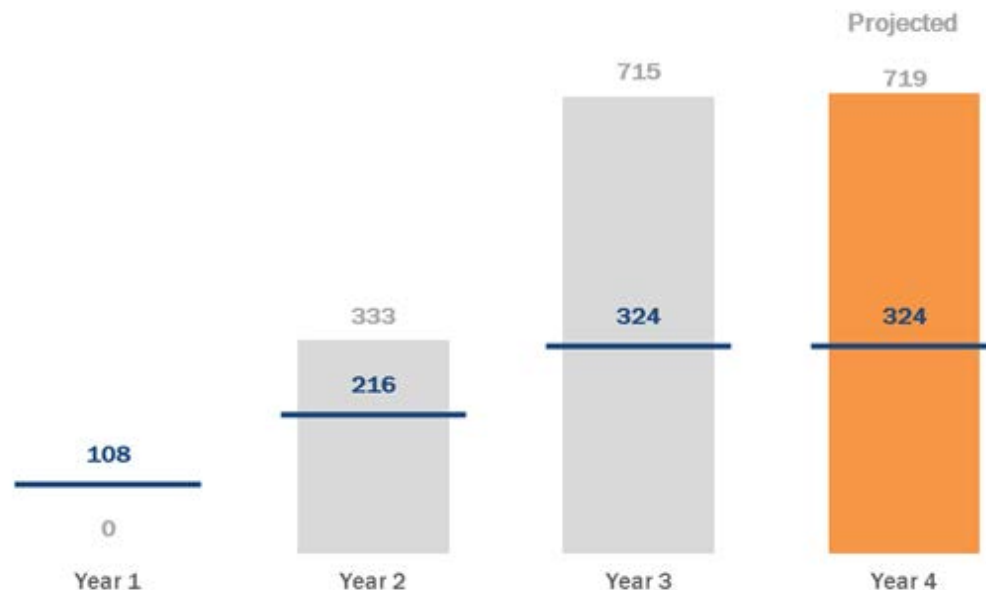


Online & Hybrid Courses – Feedback

- Most participants preferred in-person courses to online courses
- Students who have taken both in-class and online courses tended to provide higher ratings for in-person than online courses
- Perceived advantages of in-person courses:
 - Allow students to receive immediate responses to their questions
 - Are more hands-on and interactive
- Students who live far from campus cited the convenience of online courses

Prior Learning Assessments - Goals

- HL-SCI has exceeded the goals for:
 - The number of students receiving PLA credits and credits awarded
 - Programs and credits recognized by the Connecticut Career Assessment Program (CCAP)
- Students are aware of PLA process, but some believe they should have received more credit or found the system difficult to navigate.



Internships and Job Placement Services

- HL-SCI has exceeded the goal for internship placement
- Few students participated in internships outside of clinical requirements for their programs
- Most students on both campuses said they did not receive career guidance from the college
- Those who did receive career guidance reported positive experiences with it
- Students would like more career guidance

Next Steps

- Spring site visits will be completed at Capital, Gateway, and Middlesex in February and March
- CNA will submit a final report in September that includes:
 - Summary of findings from all site visits
 - Results of a second consortium-wide student survey to gather their feedback on what is working well and what can be improved
 - Results of the quantitative evaluation
- Quantitative data analysis
 - Consortium colleges are finalizing a standardized system for collecting data on HL-SCI students and outcomes; CNA will receive data in early 2016
 - CNA will use this data to examine the impact of HL-SCI on student outcomes