



Awarding AC Grants: A Well-Oiled Machine

Northwestern Connecticut Community College

Awarding Academic Competitiveness Grants

- Brief overview of the ACG program
- At the campus level, no way to implement the ACG program; but the customization of Banner (RWRACG01) created the chassis for us to build and drive
- Perspectives of the Team
 - Admissions
 - Registrar
 - Financial Aid



Building the Machine

- ❑ Assemble a team to make AC Grants available to qualified students
- ❑ Promote awareness of AC Grants to students
- ❑ Develop a production schedule that is realistic and prevents large backlogs
- ❑ Adjust or modify the playing field when necessary
- ❑ Communicate needs and helpful advice to members of the team
- ❑ Recognize accomplishments

Rigorous Program Completion Certification Official

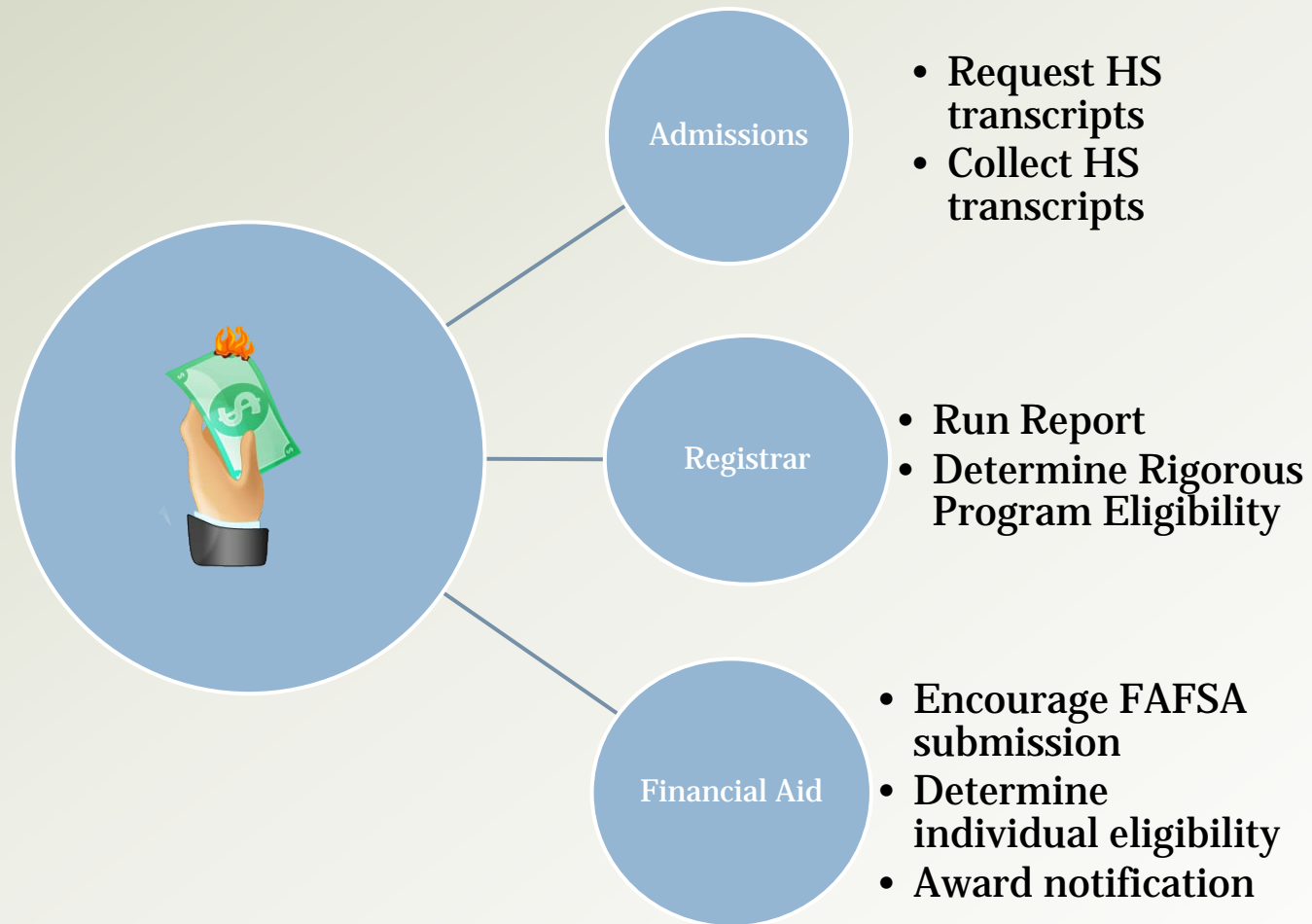
- **Missing Cogs**
 - Registrar does not collect or evaluate HS transcripts
 - Though students are required to show proof of HS completion, submission of an actual transcript was not always mandatory (copy of diploma sufficed)



Missing Parts

- How do we get students to apply for AC Grants?
 - Students only appear on the Banner report if they self-select on the FAFSA
 - Mailing sent to over 600 students resulted in only 1 student and 1 parent inquiry
 - Students had to be US Citizens (permanent residents not eligible for this program even though they are eligible for other types of financial aid)

Awarding AC Grants



Fine Tuning the Machine

- Created a new form to use in determining Rigorous Program eligibility
- Admissions enforced the collection of official transcripts upon admission
- Promote the program (initial mailing to students; advertise program at college fairs; new financial aid brochure)
- Utilize the Banner report (RWRACG01)



Northwestern Connecticut Community College
 Park Place East
 Winsted, CT 06098

Academic Competitiveness Grant Program/Certification of Completion of a Rigorous Secondary Program of Study

Student Name _____ **ID#@** _____

Directions: Circle each number as applicable. The College's Rigorous Program Certification Official must sign this form and attach material documenting the student's completion of the appropriate program(s). This form and documentation must be maintained in the student's academic folder at the college.

Rigorous Programs of Study:

1. **Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses**
 _____ 2 AP Courses (passing score of 3 or better)
 _____ 2 IB Courses (4 or better)

2. **High School**
 _____ 4 years of English
 _____ 3 years of Math (Algebra 1 & a higher level i.e. Algebra 2, Geometry, Data Analysis or Statistics)
 _____ 3 years of Science (1 yr each in 2 of the following: Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
 _____ 3 years of Social Studies
 _____ 1 year of a language other than English **OR**
 _____ NOCTI trade certification for CT Technical High School Graduates

3. **State Scholars Initiative (Wilbur Cross HS, Metropolitan Business HS)**
 _____ 4 years of English
 _____ 3 years of Math (Algebra 1 & 2 and Geometry)
 _____ 3 years of Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
 _____ 3.5 years of Social Studies (either US History (1), World History (1), World Geography (1), economics (0.5) or Government (0.5))
 _____ 2 years World Language (same language)

4. **Dual-Enrollment Program Participants (Early College Experience-UCONN program, HSP and Tech Prep)**
 Students must have completed a minimum of 2 courses in the "core curriculum" and receive a grade of 3.0 or better in each course. "Core Curriculum" for our purposes means general education courses, e.g. English, Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts, Sciences, Foreign Languages, the Arts, History, Geography, Civics and Government, Economics.
 _____ High School Partnership _____ Tech Prep
 _____ Courses taken _____

Based on my review of an official high school transcript dated _____, I hereby certify that the above-referenced student is:

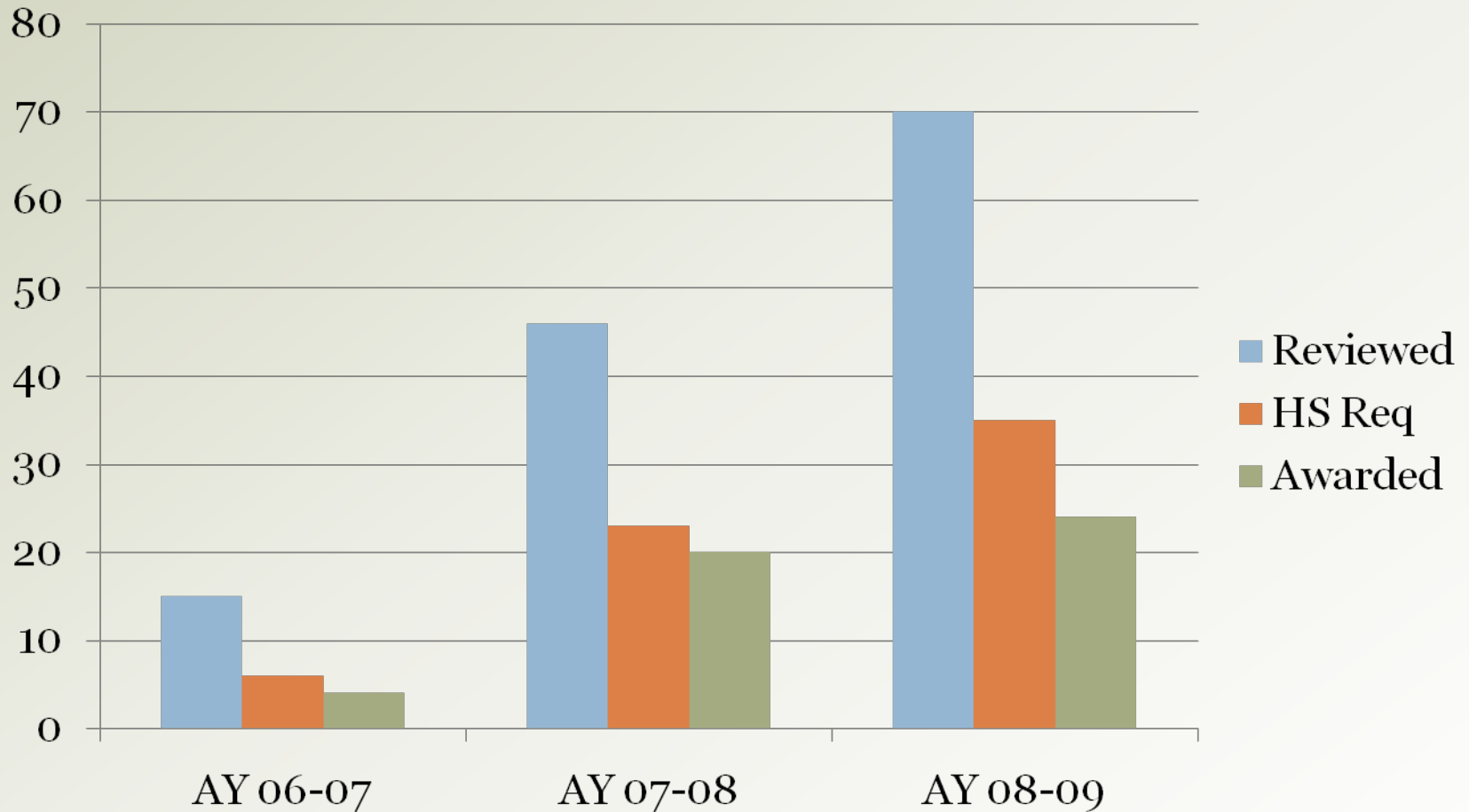
_____ ELIGIBLE _____ NOT ELIGIBLE
 to participate in the Academic Competitiveness Grant program.

Entered in Banner _____

 Debra Reynolds, Registrar

 Date

First Year AC Grants



First Year AC Grants

Academic Year	# HS Reviewed	#HS Req. Met	# Awarded	\$ Awarded/Enrolled
06-07	15	6 40%	4 27%	\$2,625
07-08	46	23 50%	20 44%	\$13,125
08-09	70	35 50%	24 34%	\$16,125

Production Issues

- Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the student transcripts that are reviewed are ultimately awarded AC Grants
- Huge additional workload on already strained resources
- 2nd year awards

Observations/Recommendations

- Teamwork is required
- Shared commitment is essential
- Planning is crucial

