We strengthen the ability of California community colleges to discover and undertake high-quality research, planning, and assessments that improve evidence-based decision-making, institutional effectiveness, and success for all students.

Grounded in our roots as a professional association for researchers and planners, the RP Group:

- Provides professional and leadership development programs for the full range of California community college practitioners
- Undertakes research on issues of unique significance to our institutions and system
- Conducts evaluation to provide feedback on key reform and policy initiatives at play in the state
- Recognizes innovation through awards and events promoting outstanding research and planning practices and innovations designed to secure student success and equitable outcomes

Since our work is defined and conducted by community college practitioners, the RP Group provides an on-the-ground perspective on complex issues within California’s community college system. This approach enables us to lead and advance work at both the institutional and state levels that:

- Expands research and planning capacity
- Reduces equity achievement gaps
- Streamlines and strengthens completion
- Promotes frameworks that provide evidenced-based outcomes
RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
We undertake research studies and lead evaluation projects that offer *insight into what structures, practices, and policies meaningfully advance student success* at both the individual college and system levels. We work in partnership with faculty, student services and institutional research and planning (IRP) professionals, staff, college administrators, and system leaders to define research questions, interpret evidence, and plan for action.

Current research and evaluation topics include *equity, institutional effectiveness, student support, basic skills reform, and workforce development*.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
We provide professional development that **strengthens the ability of IRP professionals and other community college practitioners to gather and use information and inform change initiatives**. We offer a wide range of opportunities for participants to build skills, expand capacity, network, and explore innovations and effective practices—both in IRP and on issues of importance across the system.

Current opportunities include:

- **Research and Planning Conference** (April)
- **Strengthening Student Success Conference** (October)
- **Summer Institute** (Biennial)
- **Regional Research Groups** (Ongoing)
- **Leading from the Middle Academy** (Annual, Year-long)
- **Customized training for individual colleges or programs** (By request)
- **Web-based tools and resources**

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
We provide **hands-on support to national and statewide initiatives** to ensure these efforts are grounded in the needs of the field and purposefully advance a “success for all students” agenda. We also work directly with **individual colleges**, enabling these institutions to turn research into meaningful action at the local level and grow their capacity to use inquiry and evidence for ongoing improvement.