Greetings Pathways trailblazers!

I'd like to begin the newsletter by congratulating the twenty colleges selected to be part of the California Guided Pathways Project!!! They were each selected from an incredibly competitive pool of applicants.

Congratulations to the following schools:

1. American River
2. Butte
3. Cabrillo
4. Canyons
5. Cosumnes River
6. Chaffey
7. Cuyamaca
8. LA Trade Tech
9. Long Beach
10. MiraCosta
11. Modesto
12. Norco
13. Reedley
14. Rio Hondo
15. Riverside
16. San Joaquin Delta
17. Santa Ana
18. Santa Barbara
19. Southwestern
20. Yuba

There has been a lot of activity related to Guided Pathways:

From CCCCO:

Vice Chancellor Mario Rodriguez, along with invited presenters testified to both the Senate Budget Education Committee and the Assembly Budget Education Committee on the $150M one-time line item in the Governor’s budget. The presentations were well received despite the question being raised on how this $150M would move the dial on more students completing degrees and certificates. It appeared that the legislature was well aware of the investments made in the various programs like SSSP, Equity, BSI, …. (a total of approximately $850 Million) and they were particularly interested in understanding how this additional infusion of one-time dollars would actually show significant improvements.
On April 27th, our chancellor Eloy Oakley, sent an open letter to the CEOs of the CA Community Colleges communicating a sense of urgency in student success and equity work we do. His clear and direct communication has a sense of confidence that with systems improvements (Multiple Measures etc) and the focus on local empowerment (Promise Programs etc.), we can make this happen in California. Here is an excerpt from his 4-page letter that is posted on the CA Guided Pathways website.

“While we choose to respond to this assessment with explanations of why completion outcomes have not improved, I urge that we instead use it as an opportunity to re-double our efforts and approach our work with renewed urgency and intentionality. In this spirit, the Chancellor’s Office has proposed implementing the Guided Pathways framework as one solution. The Guided Pathways framework will assist colleges in improving student achievement outcomes by focusing efforts throughout the system on practices and interventions that work at scale, integrating planning across all divisions and silos on college campuses and in the Chancellor’s Office, and leveraging all of the state investments made in pursuit of improving student outcomes.”

Chancellor Oakley, calls on CA Community Colleges to implement three practices. Here are excerpts:

- Practice 1--Multiple Measures: The use of high school transcript data, along with other data such as grade point average, has demonstrated stronger predictive value than using standardized placement exams alone in placing students in college courses. **Action Recommended:** Colleges should end the use of standardized placement exams as the primary tool to place students in college courses. **Action Recommended:** Colleges are recommended to design and implement a multiple measures placement model using high school transcript data and/or other locally available student data that demonstrates predictive value.

- Practice 2 – Remedial Education: Even with improved placement models, a significant number of students lack the basic skills necessary to succeed in college-level credit courses and are in need of remedial education. **Action Recommended:** Colleges should take an aggressive and intentional approach in implementing remedial education reforms that significantly reduce the types and number of basic skills sequences a student must complete, that consider the co-requisite models, which maintain a student’s momentum toward achieving an educational outcome, and that rely on scale-able models of interventions that
are integrated across the college and supported by college-level strategic planning.

- Practice 3 – College Promise: Many colleges, in partnership with K-12 districts, universities, and local government are establishing College Promise initiatives across the state. **Action Recommended:** Colleges involved in establishing College Promise initiatives are encouraged to continue to build on their efforts and bring together local K-12, university, philanthropic, and municipal partners for the purpose of streamlining pathways from Pre-K to a bachelor’s degree.

**From CA Guided Pathways Advisory Committee:**

The CA Guided Pathways Advisory Committee members have been presenting and leading discussions at individual colleges and various conferences. For example: The RP Conference, CSSO, CIO, CCLC, …. For a complete list, check the website.

The [Chief Student Services Officers Conference “Integration Through Action”](#) in Los Angeles had two hours dedicated to Guided Pathways including a presentation by Tom Bailey, one of the author of *Redesigning America’s Community Colleges*.

A special thank you to the Executive Board of the CSSO headed by Sylvia Dorsey-Robinson for putting on such a dynamic conference and placing Guided Pathways front and center.

Also, thank you to Meridith Randall and the CIO committee for having us present Guided Pathways at the [California Community Colleges Chief Instructional Officers “Lights Camera Action”](#) conference.

Happening now: Guided Pathways is on the agenda for the [Community College League of California’s Annual Trustees conference](#) being held at Lake Tahoe through May 7th.
There has also been some articles about Guided Pathways in the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges’s Rostrum journal.

See Julie Bruno’s article “Developing Guided Pathways: The Importance of Faculty Voice and Leadership” and Ginni May’s article “Guided Pathways: One Professor’s Response to Redesigning America’s Community College’s” in the February issue followed by Nick Strobel’s and Jessica Wojtysiak’s article “Guided Pathways: Two Professors’ Perspective on Why We Need the College GPS” in the April issue. All of those presentations are getting the word out about Guided Pathways to the many stakeholders in the success of our students.

They are also a great buildup to the May 24th Pathways Leadership Matters Summit. Is that on your calendar? The topic of the day, “Re-Imagining Leadership in a Guided Pathways College” reflects on the growth of the guided pathways concept from an intriguing idea in 2015 to an institutionalized reality in the California Community College system in 2017.
I hope you’ll join Bakersfield College and Leading from the Middle as we rethink, re-envision, and re-imagine leadership in community. State Chancellor, Eloy Oakley will be our keynote speaker. Chancellor Oakley made it very clear in his remarks at the ACCJC “Partners In Excellence” conference that we need to make significant gains in student success -- not only for the sake of our students and strengthening
California’s economy, but also to retain the credibility of the California Community College system in the eyes of the State Legislature.

I’ll close with a reminder about two websites for the California Guided Pathways project.

1. caguidedpathways.org - the official website hosted by the Foundation for California Community Colleges
2. bakersfieldcollege.edu/president/projects/ca-guided-pathways-project where you’ll find various white papers and the slides used at the statewide conferences.

With much warmth and collegiality,
Sonya

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