



May 2, 2016

Greetings Pathways trailblazers!

The Guided Pathways Summit was just two months ago but that is also 1776 hours ago, so I'm sure that a lot has happened at your colleges between now and then, just as it has for us at Bakersfield College. Our semester is coming to a close with graduation in less than two weeks. Several hundred students will be walking across the stage to get their diploma and I know that although we'll be very happy that they achieved their educational goals, we also know that many took far longer than they should have to get that diploma and that there are so many more students who should be walking across that stage!

Here at Bakersfield College we have unveiled the pilot "Renegade Promise" to the public. It is a promise to our students and community that college-ready students will be able to get in and out with an Associates Degree for Transfer in 60 units or less in two years for the pilot group of students in Cohort 0. Guided pathways will be the key to fulfilling that promise, so we have been working on translating the good ideas and dreams shared, by our peers across California, from the Guided Pathways Summit into practical reality.

We have posted all of the presentation materials on the Guided Pathways Summit website at <https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/conference/redesigning-community-colleges>. The website includes the PowerPoint slides and video of all of the presenters. Recall the questions we asked at the summit: "What about the guided pathways approach might be good for your college?" "What are you currently doing that a guided pathways effort might build on or help to tie together?" "What are you going to do to take this back to folks on your campus?" "What questions and concerns do you still have about guided pathways?" We hope the website will help you answer those questions for your college.

We've been busy working with SSSP, Equity, BSI Transformation grant, and the Associate Degree for Transfer as the cornerstones of our guided pathways work. Along with Mt SAC and Irvine Valley College, we have been engaging in a national conversation about guided pathways in AACC's Pathway Project. The number I quoted at the start of this letter "1776" (the number of hours since the summit) brings to mind the idea of revolution that is taking place here in California with regard to student success. In the AACC's Pathway Project conversation with other community college leaders across the nation, I have been struck by how far ahead is California in the work of implementing guided pathways because of the SSSP and Equity funding.

But how do we take all this work to the next level? How do we integrate the work we're doing with SSSP, Equity, BSI Transformation, ADT, and other student success mandates from the legislature? We have started work with AACC to tailor their Pathways Project to the particularities of California because California Community Colleges alone educate one in five community colleges in the entire nation and we have structures and regulations that are unique to California. By the Fall 2016 semester, we will have the framework for a California Pathways Project developed and we will keep you informed as we work out the details of the framework for that conversation.

I look forward to our continuing conversations about guided pathways!



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