



October 31, 2016

Greetings Pathways trailblazers!

Happy Halloween!

On October 11th, the Advisory Group for the California Guided Pathways project met to create the framework for the California demonstration project of the AACC Guided Pathways project. Looking around the room, it was great seeing so many leaders within the CA Community College system who have been working on various student success initiatives all together, looking at how we can integrate the work and take it to the next level. The will and brain power were all right there!

Let me introduce you to the Advisory Committee. Not all members were present at the meeting.



The Advisory Group's meeting was just four days after the RP Group's Student Success Workshop hosted by [Career Ladders](#). Established in 2002 by the Board of Governors, [Career Ladders](#) is the official auxiliary to the California Community Colleges system that works in partnership with the CCC system to provide educational and career advancement opportunities for Californians.

About thirty colleges attended that workshop, and I'm very thankful that Career Ladders brought all those people together for those stimulating discussions!

What a great springboard to the Advisory Group meeting on October 11th.



My favorite activity at the Career Ladders post conference workshop on Guided Pathways was when we were asked to respond to the question *What is our why?* for doing this work.

Here is an abbreviated list:

- Equity gaps in competition
- Focused on next generation of students - our children, siblings, etc.
- Help students make better choices
- Save students money
- Standardize process/methods when design program/framework across disciplines



- Care what we offer is relevant. Help them figure out their purpose.
- Shock from HS to college
- Crippled by too many choices
- Broader focus than just passing classes
- Reach underrepresented communities
- Provide support to those who don't have it
- Opportunity to re-evaluate ourselves
- Don't want to be a barrier/obstacle to student success – want to help
- Contextualize learning by organizing disciplines
- Building empowerment
- Integrating/focusing
- Redesigning programs from student focus, not faculty/admin perspective
- From D.O. - working around edges does not always work - needs more fundamental changes
- Creating learning networks – not just buckets
- Rethinking from student perspective
- EQUITY!! – social mobility
- Seeking to be worthy of our students
- Seeing the invisible – speaking to experienced students who aren't usually seen

The information from the Career Ladders post conference session can be found at

- [“Guided Pathways: A Presentation at the SSSC Post Conference Session”](#)
Post-Conference Session Presentation at Strengthening Student Success by Sonya Christian
- [“A Comprehensive Planning Process for the Development and Implementation of The Skyline College Promise”](#)
Post-Conference Session Presentation at Strengthening Student Success by Angelica Garcia and Aaron McVean
- [“Implementing Institutional Redesign: Levers for Achieving Equity in Completion”](#)
Post-Conference Session at Strengthening Student Success by Mina Dadgar, Chase Fischerhall and Kris Palmer

Back to the October 11th Advisory Committee meeting, the presentation materials, the printed booklet, and other supplemental materials and pictures are posted at the [California Guided Pathways website](#).



You'll see in the presentations that the work of the four pillars of guided pathways is already being done in California. **Those pillars are: clarifying the path, getting students on the path to completion, keeping students on the path, and ensuring that learning is happening with intentional outcomes.**

To paraphrase Chancellor Eloy Oakley, guided pathways is the ecosystem in which this work is integrated and reimaged. I certainly agree with Chancellor Oakley that the California Guided Pathways project "will be informing the next White House administration about the direction the nation needs to go in education reform."

Kay McClenney and Rob Johnstone led us in the key task of the October 11th meeting that was to determine the criteria and application process for selecting the pathways coaches and the colleges that the coaches will work with. Details about the [roles and responsibilities of a Guided Pathways Coach](#) are now posted on the [California Guided Pathways website](#).



The College Futures Board will decide on funding the three-year CA Guided Pathways Demonstration Project at their December 6th meeting. In the meantime, we continue with our work with the planning grant that we received for this work. As part of the planning, the advisory committee reviewed the pre-final draft of the [application for colleges that want to participate in the California Guided Pathways Project](#). You might find this instrument useful in advancing the work of student success at your college.

Bakersfield College's pathways team has found the discussions around our own readiness assessment for the national AACC Guided Pathways Project very helpful in identifying the areas where we're doing well and the gap areas. The readiness assessment for the California Guided Pathways is modeled closely on the national project's readiness assessment.

I am happy to note that Julie Bruno, President of the Academic Senate, has scheduled a general session on Guided Pathways as well as a breakout session on November 3rd. In general, the ASCCC Plenary conferences have always been rich with information and I have found it useful to not only attend it myself but also encourage faculty and administrators to also consider attending.

Two weeks later, on November 16th, will be a workshop for CEOs attending the CCLC convention where Kay McClenney is the invited speaker.

December 6th is when our primary funding agency, the College Futures Foundation, will be considering the California Guided Pathways proposal. I am already very thankful for their financial support in the development of the proposal and the meeting of the Advisory Group.

Make sure to put the IEPI two-day Pathways workshop on December 7th–8th or January 26th–27th on your calendar. Davis Jenkins, co-author of *Redesigning America's Community Colleges*, will be present for both of those workshops. In addition, we have various colleges presenting on the four pillars of the Guided Pathways framework. The IEPI planning team is led by Theresa Tena, Vice Chancellor, CCCCCO. In addition to the staff from CCCCCO, we have Randy Beach and Adrienne Foster representing ASCCC on the planning team.

The December workshop will be in Sacramento, and a southern California location for the January workshop is being finalized. Choose either one of the workshops to attend. Either one will be invaluable in helping your college fill out the readiness assessment review in the California Guided Pathways Project application.

California is well on its way to integrating our student success and equity work so that it becomes a "whole college approach," rather than individual and independent initiatives; which is really the guided pathways framework. I'm very much looking

forward to moving to the next stage of our work to making the systemic changes that will help many more students meet their educational and career goals.

Let's make this happen.



With much warmth and collegiality,
Sonya

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