



SUNY Guided Pathways

Alumni Update

October 2020

www.suny.edu



1

Why guided pathways is still relevant right now...

— CCRC —

COVID challenges for students and colleges

- Students will be even less able to afford college so they will expect programs that enable them to achieve goals as quickly and affordably as possible
- Students will want programs that enable them to secure stable jobs in short term and good jobs in longer term—offered in formats/on schedules that work for adults with intense job and family pressures
- Demand for HS dual enrollment offerings that save time and money required to earn a bachelor's degree in students field of interest will increase
- Students will face higher levels of trauma than usual
- Competition from online degree completion providers, regional public universities, less-selective privates will intensify
- State funding will likely be cut substantially; colleges will have to break down silos, work collaboratively to respond to challenges

*From SUNY CCRC Accelerating Pathways Workshop on
October 5, 2020*

What CCRC has learned from additional research...

— CCRC —

Guided pathways strategies for student success and equity



Program Value: Backward design all programs to ensure they prepare students to secure good jobs and/or further education needed for career advancement



Purpose: Help every student explore career/academic interests and connect with faculty, advisors, students, & alumni in their field of interest from the start



Empowerment: Ensure every student takes a “light the fire” course on topics of interest in term 1



Plan: Ensure every student has a career goal and full educational plan by the end of term 1

From SUNY CCRC Accelerating Pathways Workshop on
October 5, 2020



The State University
of New York

New Resources:

- **Unpacking Program Enrollments and Completions With Equity in Mind:**
<https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/publications/unpacking-program-enrollments-completion-equity.htm>
- **Redesigning Community College Student Onboarding Through Guided Pathways:**
<https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/publications/redesigning-community-college-onboarding-guided-pathways.html>
- **The Transfer Playbook: Essential Practices for Two- and Four-Year Colleges:**
<https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/publications/transfer-playbook-essential-practices.html>
- **The Dual Enrollment Playbook: A Guide to Equitable Acceleration for Students:**
<https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/publications/dual-enrollment-playbook-equitable-acceleration.html>

CCRC

CCRC ANALYTICS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE RESEARCH CENTER | JUNE 2020

Unpacking Program Enrollments and Completions With Equity in Mind

By John Fink and Davis Jenkins

Across the country hundreds of community colleges are implementing whole-college guided pathways reforms to create clearer paths to college and career success for students.¹ The aim of these reforms is to help students explore and decide upon career and education goals that align with their interests and aspirations, and to plan and complete a program of study to achieve those goals. As part of these reforms, colleges redesign intake and advising processes around broad career fields sometimes called "meta-majors"; this helps entering students make sense of the large number of program options that are available and engages them with faculty, advisors, and other students in a field of interest right from the start (Jenkins et al., 2020). Guided pathways reforms are challenging for colleges to pursue; they entail the participation of all staff in modifying practices around a far-reaching notion of student success (Jenkins et al., 2019). They require a shift in mindset wherein college personnel ask not only "Are students persisting and completing?" but also "Do our programs really lead to the education and career outcomes students seek?" and "Is student representation across our programs equitable?"

“A substantial literature base reveals not only that returns to higher education programs are stratified but also that this stratification operates along racial/ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic lines.”

Critically examining what programs students are entering and completing is particularly important given that some community college programs lead to substantially higher economic returns than others (Belfield & Bailey, 2017; Dadgar & Trimble, 2015). A substantial literature base reveals not only that returns to higher education programs are stratified but also that this stratification operates along racial/ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic lines (Carnevale et al., 2016; Castex & Decher, 2014). Though this research has focused primarily on the four-year sector, it may be that community colleges are in even more danger of facilitating inequitable stratification since their programs vary by subject area as well as length (corresponding, e.g., to short- and long-term certificates, applied associate degrees, and associate of arts degrees designed to prepare students for upward transfer to bachelor's degree programs). There is a wide range in the economic returns to different types of community college awards, with longer programs and those leading to bachelor's degrees in math-intensive fields, for example, leading to stronger labor market returns.

Guided Pathways to What? For Whom?

www.suny.edu



4



Additional GP Implementation Support

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant Guided Pathways Implementation Funding (Sept 2019-Aug 2022)

Sub-award funding to further guided pathways implementation on campuses:

- Round 1: 9 colleges participating from Cohort I/Alumni
- Round 2: 8 colleges from Cohort II are eligible this fall

Technical assistance:

- Onboarding, advising and holistic student supports
- Teaching & Learning Academies
- Accelerating Pathways Support
- Change leadership activities

Upcoming Alumni Activities

December 2020 – Data Workshop *(details coming soon from team leads)*

Spring 2021 – Light the Fire Teaching & Learning Academies

- Targeted for guided pathways alumni college faculty
- Focused on elements of Ensuring Students are Learning
- Partnering this fall with Alison Kadlec of Sova and small group of SUNY guided pathways faculty as an advisory group to develop the workshops
- Sending a faculty survey soon for program ideas

April 2021 – Alumni Meeting

Other ideas? Add to the chat!