



Guided Pathways Liaison Memo

October 2018

Dear Guided Pathways Liaisons:

“Wayfinding” is a term that comes from architecture, and it is a useful design concept to consider for use for our discussions around guided pathways. Wayfinding can be seen in many ways in everyday life. When we enter a hospital, we are greeted with clear, easily understandable signs, and we’re often directed with ribbons of color on the floor: “Follow the red line to Emergency Services.” Sometimes walls will be painted a specific color to differentiate functions or see graphics that illustrate activities. Signs may direct activities: “Check in with the triage nurse behind the blue desk.” In a life or death situation, or when dealing with any person who is lost or agitated, wayfinding tools are often lifesavers, and they increase a sense of personal safety and empowerment while decreasing anxiety.

We, on our campuses, share something with hospitals: Our students are often lost, confused, nervous, and unsure. Wayfinding tools can help build student confidence and self-efficacy. Physical wayfinding tools can be one way to serve our students: Tools such as signs, arrows, graphics, and color coding can direct students to a proper destination, identify why a student might want to enter an office, or make clear what preparation is necessary for a function.

Think about the signage on your campus. Does the sign “Business Office” actually tell a student that parking passes, class fees, and past due accounts will be handled here? Does it imply that students are the business? Even an intrepid student will likely linger at the door, awaiting some sort of signal that this is the right place. Wouldn’t it be logical to spell it out with a series of bullets letting students know that, “If you need to do the following tasks, you are in the right place.”

While wayfinding can be physical, it can also be thought of in a metaphorical way. A sign might declare, “You are here.” A dynamic student educational plan might do the same: “You are here in your progress toward your goal, and here is the path ahead of you.” A counseling memo might remind students what conditions require a new student

educational plan: “You were on a path, but now you need a new one.” A self-assessment procedure might direct a student toward a likely area of career exploration.

When we think about wayfinding in both senses (physical and metaphorical), we are looking at ways to empower students to be confident, self-reliant adults who feel in control of their path.

Resources available to you and your academic senate

The ASCCC Guided Pathways Task Force is working with a variety of organizations and is funded by a grant from the Chancellor’s Office to provide services and resources to local colleges. The Guided Pathways Resource Teams are able to provide a direct and custom-made response to the needs of local academic senates concerning issues around guided pathways and the 10+1 academic and professional matters. Please note that there is no cost to the college or the local senate for these services.

[GUIDED PATHWAYS RESOURCE TEAM REQUEST](#)

FYI- MEETING DAYS/TIMES:

JOIN US! October 9th 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Guided Self-Placement (GSP) Webinar

Guided Self-Placement (GSP) is a locally developed tool or process that allows students, in consultation with counselors or other faculty, to determine suitable coursework including the appropriate mathematics, English and English as a Second Language (ESL) entry-level class. GSP is a response to considerable research that indicates that placement testing and other placement measures are not always effective predictors of success for individual students. Why would you want to consider GSP at your college - and how does it fit within a guided pathways framework? This webinar will address the why and what of GSP.

[Register HERE!](#)

October 9th 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Guided Pathways Task Force Meeting

[ZOOM](#)

October 22nd 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Guided Pathways Task Force Meeting

[ZOOM](#)

November 1-3, 2018 ASCCC Plenary*

November 5th 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Guided Pathways Task Force Meeting

[ZOOM](#)

November 28th 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Guided Pathways Task Force Meeting
[ZOOM](#)

December 6th 1:00pm – 2:00pm
Guided Pathways Task Force Meeting
[ZOOM](#)

In case you missed it!

[Live Webinar: Defining the Role of a Guided Pathways Liaison](#)

[Guided Pathways Liaison Training](#)

[2018 ASCCC Academic Academy Resources](#)

*Click on Presentation Materials!

Appreciatively,

ASCCC Guided Pathways Task Force

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