Guided Pathways in the California Community Colleges (CCCs)

4/2/18

In late 2017, California’s 114 community colleges were asked to complete “The California Community Colleges Guided Pathways Self-Assessment Tool”. This self-assessment was intended to:

1. Serve as a learning tool for the colleges to help campus constituents gather and reflect on their systems and practices in an organized and thoughtful way,
2. Inform the CCCCO about what types of capacity-building resources would help colleges engage in Guided Pathways, and
3. Provide an aggregate picture of colleges’ Guided Pathway processes with regards to inquiry, design, and implementation of key elements and how they are progressing over time. (http://cccgp.cccco.edu/Portals/0/uploads/GP/Info\_GP\_Assessment\_Tool\_2017.pdf)

Submission of the self-assessment with signatures from the college’s CEO, Academic Senate, and Board of Trustees was a requirement of the CCCCO Guided Pathways Award Program. The California Community College Guided Pathways Grant Program is codified in Education Code §88920 – 88922. Per §88922 (c), “Before the CCCCO may award grant funds to a participating community college, the college shall demonstrate its commitment by completion of all of the following:

1. Submitting a letter to the chancellor’s office signed by, and expressing the commitment of, the president of the governing board of the community college district, the chief executive officer of the college, and the president of the college’s academic senate to adopt a guided pathways model.
2. Notifying the chancellor’s office that the college has attended an Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative workshop for guided pathways. The chancellor’s office shall ensure that community college representatives have sufficient access to an Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative workshop for guided pathways that provides expert assistance to college representatives in developing a work plan that identifies implementation tasks for each participating college.
3. Establishing and submitting to the chancellor’s office a work plan outlining the college’s commitment to implement a guided pathways program for all entering students and integrate existing student-success programs operating at the college.”

The required workshops specified in (2) were held in fall 2017. During the spring 2018 term additional workshops were held to assist colleges in initiating or furthering their guided pathways work. Reportedly, all 114 colleges submitted the self-assessment, indicating that a cross-functional team developed the document and that there was local agreement to demonstrate, through the work plan, a commitment to implement a guided pathways framework at the local college. The work plan specified in (3) was due March 30, 2018. The work plan requires the signature of the college’s CEO and Academic Senate President.

Although no designated guided pathways funds were provided to the colleges before April of 2018, many have initiated extensive work related to guided pathways. This document is intended to provide a snapshot of the work initiated in the colleges in advance of the awarding of funds as part of the Guided Pathways Award Program. Only twenty-six colleges, less than 23% of the CCCs, have formally initiated guided pathways work as of March 2018. Note – this overview is based on publically available information. It is not intended to document all guided pathways progress to date.

**America Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Pathways Project** <https://www.aacc.nche.edu/programs/aacc-pathways-project/> (2014)

Thirty diverse institutions from 17 states were selected to participate in intensive Pathways Project work over the next 3 years. The selection criteria were intentionally rigorous, as the project is designed to help colleges already progressing on a student success agenda to advance that work to the next level. Three of the 30 institutions selected were CCCs:

1. Bakersfield College 2. Irvine Valley College 3. Mt. san Antonio College

**Skyline’s Promise Scholars Program (2015)**

<https://www.skylinecollege.edu/promise/indexoverview.php>

The Promise Scholars Program provides financial, academic and social boosts for all first-year students enrolled full-time. Modeled after CUNY ASAP, which has tripled student graduation rates, it’s designed to alleviate barriers that often keep first-year students from the strong start associated with finishing college.

**Reengineering Sierra College for Student Success**

<https://www.sierracollege.edu/planning-governance/r4s/index.php>

**AACC Pathways 2.0** – Santa Monica College selected to participate.
<https://www.aacc.nche.edu/programs/aacc-pathways-project/aacc-pathways-2-0/>

**California Guided Pathways (CAGP)** - <https://www.caguidedpathways.org/> (Fall 2017) “The California Guided Pathways Project will help 20 California community colleges implement an integrated, institution-wide approach to student success by creating structured educational experiences that support each student from point of entry to attainment of high-quality postsecondary credentials and careers.”

American River College Butte College Cabrillo College

College of the Canyons Cosumnes River College Chaffey College

Cuyamaca College Los Angeles Trade Tech College Long Beach City College

MiraCosta College Modesto Junior College Norco College

Reedley College Rio Hondo College Riverside City College

San Joaquin Delta College Santa Ana College Santa Barbara City College

Southwestern College Yuba Community College