

Email Inviting Participation in Spring 2017 Roundtable Discussion Series

From: tvoden@glendale.edu

To: gcc@glendale.edu

Email Subject: What's all this "Guided Pathways" talk all about anyway?

Email Body:

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this message finds you well. In the last few years, the *Guided Pathways* movement has gained steam across the country, due in large part to the work of the Community College Research Center (CCRC) at Columbia University. We've had a number of conversations about the idea across campus, including a widely attended two-part series early in 2016 as we prepared for an HSI-STEM grant proposal. I'd like to continue those creative discussions through a structured roundtable series this semester, and you're invited. What follows is a brief framing of the Guided Pathways movement, followed by a summary of the roundtable series logistics.

Here's a working definition of *Guided Pathways* I like:

An integrated, institution-wide approach to student success based on intentionally designed, clear, coherent and structured educational experiences, informed by available evidence, that guide each student effectively and efficiently from her/his point of entry through to attainment of high-quality postsecondary credentials and careers with value in the labor market.

The principles underlying the Guided Pathways (GP) movement are an amalgamation of insights from many reform efforts built on familiar ideas. That said, the GP movement is not redundant, not a passing fad, and not just another initiative. It is a fundamental rethinking of how we do business when we realize, as argued by researchers at the CCRC and other well-respected research groups, that recent reform efforts have sought to strengthen the elements within the prevailing "cafeteria college" model without questioning the model itself. Though many of these recent efforts are based on excellent ideas supported by quality research, have been implemented with fidelity and have resulted in incremental improvements, their limited scope has limited their impact. Even many of our most successful initiatives are at risk of disappearing by virtue of the fact that they are disconnected from each other and not (yet) integrated into the fabric of our institution. Frustration with the fragmented approach to improvement seen across the CA CC system is surely one of the factors supporting the inclusion of \$150M in the governor's proposed budget for implementation of Guided Pathways at community colleges. Implementing GP does not require us to turn away from existing efforts showing promise. Rather, this movement can function as a galvanizing force for GCC, incorporating those efforts into a unified framework holding the best potential for

significant improvements in student outcomes. This is our opportunity to shape it to be consistent with our core values and vision.

Through generous support from the Title V Abriendo Caminos grant, I'd like to host a series of three roundtable discussions throughout the remainder of spring 2017.

Here is a summary of logistics for the discussion series:

- Three discussion sessions this semester: 10:00 – 12:00 on Fridays, April 14, May 5 and May 19, all located in SF 104.
- RSVP is required and space is limited. Please use this form to RSVP for each session you wish to attend. It's not an *all or nothing*—it's okay to only attend some of the sessions if you cannot attend all of them.
 - <https://goo.gl/15Zdlu>
- Lunch will be provided at the end of each session, and hopefully the conversation can continue more informally while we eat.
- Flex will be available for each session.
- Each session in the series will begin with a general overview of Guided Pathways, followed by a discussion focused on a different aspect of the Guided Pathways model. I will send out a short primer of reading materials to add context in advance of each session.

As we continue to discuss these ideas, it is essential we have participation from a broad cross-section of the college. I look forward to many stimulating discussions, and I hope you can join me for this series. Thank you. Take care.

Tom

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