Since its inception, the Texas Success Center’s Texas Pathways work has been fundamentally grounded in solving systemic educational problems impeding student success. This is caused by incoherent and misaligned structures that result in far too few Texans prepared for meaningful careers. Based on the early statewide successes of that work, the Talent Strong Texas Pathways strategy re-affirms and codifies the Texas community colleges’ shared commitment to design and scale structured academic and career pathways for all students. This extended strategy addresses the urgent need to dramatically increase the number of Texans with valuable credentials. It targets systemic barriers by providing a clear path to social and economic mobility for Texans, especially Black, Hispanic, and low-income community college students, and supports their goals for careers with family-sustaining wages. The result of the colleges’ collective Talent Strong Texas Pathways efforts will be statewide accessible and inclusive talent pathways clearly directing students through intentional programs with short-term credentials and early workplace learning, to meaningful employment, further workforce and transfer education attainment positioning students for career advancement.
Four Pillars of Essential Practices

1. Map pathways to student end goals
   - Employer-informed maps from multiple entry & reentry points to completion, transfer, & valuable careers

2. Help students choose and enter a pathway
   - Career-focused onboarding with academic & social integration to promote college-level success in the 1st year

3. Keep students on their pathway
   - Proactive supports to improve completion & transfer, enhance belongingness, & address students’ basic needs

4. Ensure students are learning
   - Active & work-based learning with culturally responsive teaching aligned with careers & further education

Talent Strong Texas Pathways

Success

Accomplishment and Self-Fulfillment Needs
Students’ Career Goals
Socio-Economic Mobility

Belonging & Wellness

Psychological, Basic & Safety Needs

Texas Success Center