Talent Strong Texas Pathways Institute #3

***Transitioning Learners with a Focus on Early Success***  
**Advance Work**

**#1 Problem of Practice**

At the April Pathways Institute, each college will participate in a problem of practice session that will allow each college to get feedback from other colleges. A problem of practice is a dilemma that you face in your work that you cannot easily solve. The dilemmas that work well in this context are ones that can be adequately described in 5 minutes or less, yet are sufficiently complex to generate meaningful conversation.

The problem of practice will address a college dilemma related to the Pillar 2 focus of the Institute, *Transitioning Learners with a Focus on Early Success*. Reflect on the systems and structures in place at your college related to the \*DRAFT\* essential practices described below. Consult with your larger guided pathways team and CEO to identify a problem of practice in this space to share with your colleagues at the Institute.

2A. **Meta-Major Exposure**

* Mandatory orientation or mandatory first-year experience AND
* Meta-major content or field-focused events during the first term

2B. **Career Exploration and Advising**

* All students given career assessments AND
* All students undergo initial advising

2C. **Early Program-Related Course Taking**

* All students take a program-related course in the first term

2D. **Mandatory Educational Planning**

* All students create a full program plan in the first term

2E. **Assessing Basic Needs**

* All students given basic needs assessment AND
* All students have access to available supports

2F. **Student’s Sense of** **Belonging**

* The college evaluates all students’ perception of belonging/connectedness AND
* The college builds social integration within first term

College Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What specific challenge is your college facing with regard to transitioning learners and ensuring an early connection to their meta-major or program content, building momentum to early academic success?

What key actions or strategies have already been tried at the college to address this challenge? What was the extent of progress made? What data elements have already been collected relating to this problem?

Who will be responsible for sharing out this Problem of Practice at the April Pathways Institute?

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Description automatically generated**A white surface with blue and black spots

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**Scan here!**

Please upload your completed Problem of Practice to the Texas Success Center [Document Center](https://tacc.org/form/document-center?source_entity_type=node&source_entity_id=1972) by April 1, 2024.

Use the file name:

[Your College Name]\_Problem of Practice\_TSTPI#3.docx

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**#2 Collection and Reflection of Student Basic Needs Data**

At the Institute, each college will have the opportunity to explore data associated with student basic needs. This activity will require each Texas community college to curate a collection of disaggregated student-level data elements. In order to maximize the time for conversation and reflection at the event, please share the data set(s) that you will use (i.e., data package) with each member of your Pathways team attending the Institute.

**College Expectations**

* Pathways Leads will curate a collection of disaggregated data elements associated with basic needs (i.e., Trellis Strategies’ 2023 SFWS Report).
* Pathways Leads will share the data sets with each member of the team attending the Pathways Institute prior to the event.

**Elements to Include in your Data Package**

**Data sets for consideration:**

* Trellis Strategies’ Student Financial Wellness Survey (SFWS)
* Trellis Strategies’ Campus Climate Survey
* CCCSE’s Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)
* CCCSE’s Survey of Entering Students Engagement (SENSE)
* The Hope Center’s survey (and institutional dashboard)
* HERI’s Diverse Learning Environment (DLE) survey
* ANEW’s Wellbeing Improvement Survey for Higher Education Settings (WISHES)
* Internal institutional data

We recommend including the following student-level data points in your data package.

* Students identifying need for emergency financial aid and/or student use of emergency financial aid
* Students identifying as using public benefits or needing public benefit enrollment assistance
* Students identifying as experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness
* Students identifying as experiencing food insecurity
* Students identifying as needing mental health support
* Students identifying as needing access to transportation services
* Extra credit:
  + Students identifying as needing childcare support
  + Students’ sense of belonging and/or connection with peers, faculty, and staff

**If your college did not administer the Trellis Strategies’ 2023 Student Financial Wellness Survey,** create a data packet that includes the recommended data elements using other recent survey data for your college (several great options have been highlighted in the green box), and/or these national- or state-level findings to support team discussion:

* [Student Financial Wellness Survey](https://www.trelliscompany.org/portfolio-items/student-financial-wellness-survey-sfws-fall-2022/) (Trellis Company, 2022)
* [#RealCollege 2021: Basic Needs Insecurity Among Texas College Students During the Ongoing Pandemic](https://hope.temple.edu/sites/hope/files/media/document/RC2020_RCTX.pdf) (The Hope Center, May 2021)
* [Mission Critical: The Role of the Community College in Meeting Student Basic Needs](https://cccse.org/sites/default/files/Mission_Critical.pdf) (Center for Community Collee Student Engagement, 2022)
* [Survey of Entering Student Engagement](https://www.ccsse.org/sense/survey/nationalbenchmark.cfm) (Center for Community College Student Engagement, 2022)

**Use of the student wellness and belonging data package at the Pathways Institute**

* Each participant attending the Talent Strong Texas Pathways Institute on April 10-12, 2024, will be asked to reflect on their college’s student basic needs data package during Team Strategy Time 2.
* College teams will engage with their data package to examine student needs and to prioritize opportunities for routine future data collection and data sharing that will lead to a cycle of continuous improvement.
* College leadership teams will generate goal(s) to include in their college action plan which enable the college to become a more student-ready institution.