

Talent Strong Texas Pathways Institute #3

Transitioning Learners with a Focus on Early Success

April 10-12, 2024
Kalahari Resort, Round Rock, Texas

Ensuring College-Level Success in the First Year

In every community college across our state, the Talent Strong Texas Pathways strategy is being scaled and institutionalized to increase the number of students who reach their end goal of a good career with living wages. Key to our success in this endeavor is integrating new essential practices that enable the transformation at each college so that it becomes “student ready.” This requires the college to focus not only on the academic integration of the learner, but also the social integration of the learner. Moreover, investments in advising and support services are crucial for achieving the college’s student success goals. College leaders must consider how each learner will experience the transition into the institution, obtain early success, and gain momentum toward their goals, at each entry point into the institution. Customized, career-focused onboarding to help students choose and enter a program path should be designed to address existing enrollment gaps in high-wage in-demand talent pathways and promote college-level success in the first year for all student sub-groups.

Transitioning Learners with a Focus on Early Success builds on the past successes of Texas colleges which have been working to better serve all types of students (e.g., first generation, incumbent workers seeking to reskill/upskill, student parents, dual credit, part-time, etc.) from the multiple entry points of pathway enrollment. This institute highlights the innovation and evidence-based strategies occurring throughout the state to scale accessible and inclusive talent pathways by redesigning the point of entry to include career-focused onboarding with academic and social integration to promote college-level success in the first year. Research indicates that an emphasis on growing student success in Year 1, as measured by the strategy’s eight early momentum metrics, will yield improvement in credential completion and transfer success.

The Talent Strong Texas Pathways strategy provides support for community college leaders’ efforts in implementing and scaling essential pathways practices for improving the inclusive flow of talented workers to good careers by:

1. **supporting students reaching their end goal of good careers** by scaling inclusive access to talent pathways at every community college;
2. **actively engaging education and workforce partnerships** building employer-led and labor market-responsive short-term credentials aligned within longer-term workforce and transfer program talent pathways to high-wage, in-demand, and valued careers; and
3. **expanding comprehensive student supports**, including basic needs and mental health supports and a college culture that both nurtures students’ sense of belonging and aids all students’ academic achievement.

College leadership teams participating in this event will consider their role and responsibility for accelerating progress toward these three stated objectives.

Institute Purposes

As a result of actively engaging in *Transitioning Learners with a Focus on Early Success* college leadership teams will:

1. Consider findings and reflections from national experts and successful Texas colleges to inform and accelerate whole-college redesign efforts, focused on the learner's transition into college.
2. Engage with fellow Texas community college leaders in a peer learning network designed to implement essential practices of Pillar 2, associated with helping student choose and enter a pathway.
3. Analyze data to gain insights into the student experience in Term 1 and Year 1.
4. Develop detailed action plans for scaling the Talent Strong Texas Pathways strategy to promote improved student outcomes.

Institute Attendees

Each college is asked to select and bring a Pathways leadership team that includes the CEO and core cabinet-level team members who are responsible for designing inclusive talent pathways. Registration and hotel accommodations for seven members of the college team will be covered by the Texas Success Center.

Suggested Institute Team:

- President/Chancellor/Chief Executive Officer
- Chief Academic Officer
- Pathways Lead (if different from CAO)
- Chief Student Services Officer
- Chief Workforce Officer
- Others:
 - Advising Services Lead
 - Student Wellness and Belonging Champion
 - Enrollment Services Lead
 - Institutional Research Lead
 - Adult Basic Education Lead
 - Chief Continuing Education Officer
 - Dual Credit Partnership Lead
 - Chief Information Officer
 - Communications Lead

Schedule of Major Events

Save the Date	
Friday, January 26	Orientation webinar; advance work released
Monday, January 29	Registration opens
February-March	Coaches prep college leadership teams for problems of practice
Wednesday, March 6	Registration closes
Monday, April 1	Advance work due
Wednesday, April 3	Digital notebook and Team Time docs released



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Agenda-At-A-Glance

Wednesday, April 10, 2024	
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM	Pre-Institute Workshops (Lunch provided)
2:00 – 3:15 PM	Opening Plenary
3:30 – 4:45 PM	Team Strategy Time 1
5:00 – 7:00 PM	Reception

Thursday, April 11, 2024	
7:00 – 8:50 AM	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Concurrent Session 1
10:15 – 11:30 AM	Team Strategy Time 2
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	Lunch
11:45 – 3:30 PM	CEO Roundtable
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Concurrent Session 2
2:15 – 3:30 PM	Problem of Practice: Networking & Problem Solving
3:45 – 5:00 PM	Team Strategy Time 3
5:00 PM	Adjourn - Dinner on Your Own

Friday, April 12, 2024	
7:30 – 8:50 AM	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:15 AM	Closing Plenary
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Team Strategy Time 4 (Action Planning)
11:30 AM	Adjourn