

“Steering” Students to Success: Keeping Students on Their Right Pathway

Keeping Students on Their Pathway

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 enables the transformation of each college so that it becomes “student ready,” by providing systematic, proactive, and unavoidable supports throughout the pathway journey that effectively steer a student to completing their desired learning journey, ensuring efficient program pathways that minimize the time it takes a student to complete their intended credential and transition to further education and/or high-value careers. This institute will pay particular attention to mandatory and systemized advising practices, including the use of data for continuous improvement and decision making as well as strategic investments in advising and support services for achieving the college’s student success goals.

“Steering” Students to Success: Strategies for Keeping Students on Their Right Pathway 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, continuing education, parenting, dual credit, part-time, multilingual learners of English (MLEs), adult basic education (ABE), etc.), in achieving their aspirations for a better future by ensuring that they advance effectively and efficiently along their program pathway. This institute highlights the innovation and evidence-based strategies occurring throughout the state to scale essential practices that support students beyond the first year through credential completion, putting the onus on the college to ensure each student engages in proactive advising at pre-determined program milestones and also receives regular and systematic communications related to their program, student life, and holistic supports. Harnessing untapped resources in the community that can be braided together and scaled to provide planned interventions and experiences throughout each student’s pathway to promote their sense of belonging will require new types of strategic partnerships that builds agency in the community to strengthen and scale support systems that will grow a culture of student success. Programming is aligned with the successful implementation of House Bill 8 and performance-based funding and supporting the paradigm shift toward understanding the value of and return on the provision of student supports.

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 and success in 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 this institute, *“Steering” Students to Success: Strategies for Keeping Students on Their Right Pathway*, 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 persistence and efficient completion of their intended credential.
2. Engage with fellow Texas community college leaders in a peer learning network designed to implement the essential practices of Pillar 3 of Talent Strong Texas Pathways, associated with Keeping Student on Their Pathway.
3. Analyze data to gain insights into the student experience by analyzing fall-to-spring persistence rates, and enrollment and completion rates by program.
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 cabinet-level team members who are responsible for ensuring each student receives the supports needed to achieve their goals of completing a credential and navigating into a high-value career or baccalaureate degree pathway. 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 Affairs Officer
- Director of Advising
- Others:
 - Institutional Research Director
 - Financial Aid Director
 - Student Wellness and Belonging Champion
 - Adult Basic Education Lead
 - Chief Continuing Education Officer
 - Chief Career and Technical Education Officer
 - Student Parent Liaison/Minding College Minds Learning Community Lead
 - Faculty Leader

Schedule of Major Events

Save the Date	
Friday, September 6	Orientation webinar; advance work released; and registration opens
September-October	Colleges complete advance work assignment; and coaches prep college leadership teams for problems of practice
Friday, October 18	Registration closes
Wednesday, October 23	Advance work due (assignment & problem of practice)
Wednesday, November 6	Digital notebook and Team Strategy Time docs released

Agenda-At-A-Glance

Wednesday, November 13, 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, November 14, 2024

7:00 – 8:50 AM	Breakfast
9:00 – 12:45 PM	CEO Roundtable
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Concurrent Session 1
10:15 – 11:30 AM	Problem of Practice: Networking & Problem Solving
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	Lunch (Leadership Fellows Poster Gallery Walk)
1:00 – 2:15 PM	Team Strategy Time 2
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Concurrent Session 2
3:45 – 5:00 PM	Team Strategy Time 3
5:00 PM	Adjourn - Dinner on Your Own

Friday, November 15, 2024

7:30 – 8:50 AM	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Closing Plenary
10:15 – 11:30 AM	Team Strategy Time 4
11:30 AM	Adjourn

