



Talent Strong Texas Pathways Institute #5
Ensuring Teaching and Learning:
Instructional Strategies for Connection and Completion

April 2-4, 2025

Hyatt Regency Houston - Houston, Texas

Introduction to the Institute

In every community college across our state, the Talent Strong Texas Pathways strategy is being scaled and institutionalized to increase the number of learners who thrive in the classroom and who successfully achieve their goals of a good career with living wages. Key to our success in this endeavor is integrating new teaching and learning essential practices that enables the transformation of each college so that it becomes “student ready.” This institute will pay particular attention to the design of program learning outcomes (PLOs) and the assessment of PLOs for program improvement, strategies for improving teaching and learning across all classes and programs in the college, implementation of effective corequisite instruction and supports, the scaling of mandatory and systematic basic needs supports, and professional development plans that promote a culture of student wellness and belonging.

Ensuring Teaching and Learning: Instructional Strategies for Connection and Completion 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 are successful when entering their program pathway. Participants will reflect on disaggregated key performance indicators associated with students’ success in their first math-, reading-, and writing-intensive courses. This institute highlights the innovation and evidence-based strategies occurring throughout the state to scale essential practices that support the state’s diverse student population, from entry into the college through to credential completion, putting the onus on the college to ensure each student is deeply engaged in their learning. Programming is aligned with the successful implementation of House Bill 8 (i.e., performance-based funding) and the mission of Texas’ open-enrollment community colleges to transform students’ lives and to grow the prosperity of the community they serve.

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, high-impact instructional practices that expand 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, *Ensuring Students are Learning: Instructional Strategies for Connection and Completion*, college leadership teams will:

1. Consider findings and reflections from national experts and successful Texas colleges to inform and accelerate instructional redesign efforts, focused on the learner's connection in the classroom and building systems to support the continuous improvement of instruction to ensure credential completion.
2. Engage with fellow Texas community college leaders in a peer learning network designed to implement the essential practices of Pillar 4 of Talent Strong Texas Pathways, associated with Ensuring Students are Learning.
3. Analyze data to gain insights into the student experience by analyzing the effectiveness of scaled instructional practices at the college, students' perception of classroom experiences, and KPI data relating to the successful completion of the first college-level courses in mathematics, reading, and writing.
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 Pathways team members who are responsible for ensuring each student receives the supports needed to achieve high instructional standards and attain 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)
- Director of Teaching and Learning Center
- Faculty Leader
- Others:
 - Institutional Research Director
 - Chief Student Affairs Officer
 - Adult Basic Education Lead
 - Chief Continuing Education Officer
 - Chief Career and Technical Education Officer
 - Student Wellness and Belonging Champion
 - Minding College Minds Implementation Team Lead



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Agenda-At-A-Glance

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

10:00 AM – 1:30 PM	Pre-Institute Workshops (Lunch provided) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Redesigning Dual Credit as a Purposeful Pathway to College and Career Opportunity ▪ AI in Action: Transforming Teaching, Learning, and Student Success ▪ Minding College Minds: Collaborative Action Plan Showcase
2:00 – 3:15 PM	Opening Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keynote: Dr. Paul Hernandez, Nationally-Recognized Author and Consultant
3:30 – 4:45 PM	Team Strategy Time 1: Scaling Effective Classroom Practices
5:00 – 6:30 PM	Reception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Featuring the Musicians of Lee College

Thursday, April 3, 2025

7:00 – 8:50 AM	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Concurrent Session 1
10:15 – 11:30 AM	Team Strategy Time 2: What Does the Data Tell Us?
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch (Networking)
11:45 AM – 3:30 PM	CEO Roundtable
1:15 – 2:15 PM	Concurrent Session 2
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Problem of Practice: Networking & Problem Solving
3:45 – 5:00 PM	Team Strategy Time 3: Connecting the Dots to Move Toward Action
5:00 PM	Adjourn - Dinner on Your Own

Friday, April 4, 2025

7:30 – 8:40 AM	Breakfast
8:45 – 10:15 AM	Closing Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TACC Legislative Update with Ray Martinez, JD ▪ Pathways Awards Ceremony ▪ Keynote: Dr. Andrew Koch, CEO, John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Higher Education
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Team Strategy Time 4: Action Planning for Transformational Change
11:30 AM	Adjourn