

2019 Texas Pathways Award Winners

The Texas Success Center is excited to announce the winners of the inaugural Texas Pathways Awards. Traditionally, at the fall Texas Pathways Institute, the Texas Success Center and the Charles A. Dana Center have recognized colleges that exhibit excellence in the implementation of mathematics pathways. The Texas Success Center continued and expanded that tradition at Texas Pathways Institute #1 in San Antonio. The center recognized a state leader in the implementation of mathematics pathways and honored the exemplary work of five colleges in the implementation and scaling of guided pathways essential practices. Four colleges received an award for their work on one pillar of guided pathways and one college received an award for overall excellence in implementation and scaling. Learn more about award winners below.

Mathematics Pathways – Kilgore College



Kilgore College has a strong alignment between programs of study and math course enrollment and a proportional distribution of students into specific programs of study. Compared to most institutions, which enroll close to 40% of students in general studies or liberal arts, only 16% of Kilgore College students are enrolled in generalized programs. Kilgore has set math requirements for programs of study appropriately and has enrollments in college-level math courses that are aligned with those requirements. Kilgore's one-year math completion rates are among the highest in the state, and they are rising steadily each year.

Mapping Pathways to Student End Goals – San Jacinto College



At San Jacinto College, all academic transfer pathways and technical certificate pathways were mapped by faculty with advisory committee collaboration as appropriate. Each pathway was examined to ensure it led to a degree-related job in the Houston area that paid a living wage. Teams of faculty members designed maps for transfer programs so all associate degree credits would transfer to the university. As they mapped programs, faculty worked with an advisor in student services to better understand the challenges of transfer from the perspective of a student and an advisor. Departments worked with advisory committees to learn about job availability and career information, which is posted on the website. Faculty researched employment options for graduates and made program modifications with a focus on student employment outcomes.

Helping Students Choose and Enter a Program Pathway – Amarillo College



Amarillo College certified all advisors as career specialists and provided resources to help faculty have career conversations with students. The college also shifted conversations about students who test into developmental education from college readiness to student goals. Amarillo College works with a number of high schools across the panhandle of Texas to motivate and prepare students for college-level coursework. Teaching professionals provide boot camps and reviews that have resulted in more high school students meeting TSI standards of college readiness. Amarillo College's adult education and literacy program serves 1,300 adults and the college hired three new Navigators who are AEL generalists to help students choose a program and create an educational plan. GED students enter a certificate program in their second eight weeks if they meet language requirements. All students must see an advisor before beginning a program of study to discuss career goals and create an academic plan for the student's entire Amarillo College career.

Keeping Students on Path – Alamo Colleges District



Through the AlamoADVISE model, students are assigned to an advisor and are supported throughout their academic career. Students are advised at 15, 30, and 45 credit hour milestones and they review their degree plan each time they meet with an advisor. An advising syllabus outlines what happens during an advising appointment. Advisors are embedded in INSTITUTES and specialize in advising students in metamajors. They complete over 60 hours of professional development, including training in career-aligned advising. Students can see their degree plan in Degree Works, which Alamo College has branded Goal + Plan = Success (GPS). Alamo College has also increased support for student financial needs and promoted resources such as crisis counseling and community resource referrals.

Ensuring Students are Learning – McLennan Community College



McLennan Community College promotes project-based learning and sponsors an undergraduate research institute. The college provides professional development on applied learning, service learning, and innovative teaching practices, and faculty can earn certificates in teaching and learning. Faculty peers work together to explore new teaching styles and methodologies and all new faculty participate in a mentor-mentee program. Faculty are supported by instructional designers who help to develop and review courses and maintain accessibility for online learners with differing abilities. McLennan Community College offers robust library and tutoring support for students, and faculty can contact success coaches through an early alert system. Equity is part of the strategic planning process and is considered in college conversations.

Excellence in Implementation and Scaling – Paris Junior College



The award for Excellence in Implementation and Scaling is presented to the college that has made the most progress in transforming the institution using guided pathways principles. This award recognizes excellence in all four pillars of guided pathways: mapping pathways to student end goals, helping students choose and enter a program pathway, keeping students on path, and ensuring students are learning.

After students are admitted to Paris Junior College, they are assigned a success coach and required to meet with that coach prior to registration. Students choose a program up front and take a Learning Framework course in first semester. By the end of first semester, every student is on a program map. Students receive a warning if they attempt to enroll in course off that map and a student success coach follows up with the student. Student success coaches track 15, 30, and 45 credit hour milestones and check whether students are on path. Paris Junior College enjoys close collaboration with Texas A&M University-Commerce. Faculty from Paris Junior College worked with faculty from the university to talk through program maps, program learning outcomes, and marketable skills. Those program learning outcomes and career opportunities are included on program maps both to inform students and to remind faculty of the end goals for students.