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Promoting Equitable Program Momentum by Asking, Connecting, Inspiring, and Planning

## Overview

All students, including those pursuing associate degrees, certificates, and noncredit programs, need to know where their programs lead and what opportunities exist for future education and employment. Students who see a clear path through college to their end goals are more likely to persist and complete. To help all students enter a path aligned with career-track jobs/transfer in their field of interest, it is critical to engage them from the start by providing supportive onboarding experiences. Additionally, in order to achieve equitable outcomes for marginalized and underserved students, it is critical to tailor onboarding support to meet the needs of different student groups.

This workshop is intended to help college stakeholders understand the importance of program onboarding and to illustrate how guided pathways principles can be used to redesign onboarding. The Ask-Connect-Inspire-Plan (ACIP) framework facilitates student engagement in programs by *asking* students about their interests and aspirations, *connecting* students with faculty and peers who share their interests, and *inspiring* students to learn, with the goal of helping students *develop an individualized education plan*. The workshop makes the case for why students’ early experiences, from the time they apply through the end of their first year, are critical to their success, and it includes planning activities to help your college reimagine the program onboarding experience.

## How this connects to our college’s current efforts

[**Note to facilitators**: Insert 1-2 sentences about how this connects to your college’s 5-year plan, strategic plan, current guided pathways efforts, etc. If you are only presenting to a specific group right now, clarify your timeline for sharing this information with the rest of your campus faculty/staff to ensure everyone is aware of their eventual inclusion. E.g. “Right now, we are presenting this workshop to faculty, but we plan to integrate student services staff in the spring term.”]

## Agenda

[10 min] Workshop Introduction

[20 min] Why program onboarding: Setting the stage with national and college data

[20 min] Introducing the Ask-Connect-Inspire-Plan framework

[25 min] Team Session #1: Mapping the current student experience

[25 min] Team Session #2: Reimagining the program onboarding experience

[10 min] Share out: Boldest ideas for reimagining program onboarding

[10 min] Whole group discussion: Next steps and workshop reflections

## Pre-readings

[*Ask-Connect-Inspire-Plan: How to Reimagine Onboarding into a Program of Study*](https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/blog/acip-reimagining-onboarding.html)   
By Hana Lahr and Davis Jenkins

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