

Speaker: Megan, Akilah, Aurely, Paul, Deenika

Topic: Guided Pathways Workshop

Megan: Welcome to our Guided Pathways Workshop page. You might be wondering: What is guided pathways? We're going to introduce you to this community college reform framework in the next couple of minutes as you consider whether the Guided Pathways Workshops might be right for your college. We believe that community college students don't have enough guidance on how to get the most out of college and reach their goals. To get somewhere, you have to see where you're going. But community college students get little help to design a pathway to graduation.

Akilah: Our research supports the idea that with more structured guidance in community colleges improves student retention and completion rates. Let's break it down a bit more. Guided pathways is a response to what we call the cafeteria model of colleges, where students have the responsibility to decide which courses to take and find help when they need it. Students must choose from a long list of options with little support. While this model seems flexible, in practice it often ends up confusing, isolating, and overwhelming students.

Aurely: This means that in a time of declining enrollments for community colleges, many of the students who initially enroll drop out early without completing a credential. Guided pathways is a framework for reforming the whole college to address these issues and improve student success. Guided pathways colleges redesign practices, policies, and systems at scale to enrich students' college experience.

Paul: The guided pathways framework has four pillars: clarify paths to student end goals; help students explore and enter a path; help students stay on a path; and ensure students are learning across programs.

Deenika: This series of workshops goes deeper into pillar two, helping students explore and enter a path. The Ask-Connect-Inspire-Plan Framework, or ACIP, is all about improving the student onboarding experience.

Zaakira: Our work on guided pathways and ACIP is centered around making these principles actionable. We have workshops, blog posts, and other resources that walk through how to take these objectives and make them real for students. We also learn from you. We work closely with colleges to implement and see how reforms progress. Every guided pathways college does it a little differently. This work can help change the student experience for the better. Thanks for watching. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions. We hope to hear from you soon.