

# PASS It On



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## Collaboration in Action: California Guided Pathways

California Guided Pathways serves as an organizing framework for community colleges to help more students achieve their educational objectives. In its best form it is a student-centered, practitioner-driven effort that allows colleges to weave together current reform initiatives into an integrated, institution-wide approach to student success. By creating structured educational experiences and integrated supports, the project will increase the number of students earning community college credentials, transferring to four-year universities and attaining living wage careers, while at the same time closing equity gaps.

The 2017-18 Governor's Budget was released earlier this month and, pending any changes, authorizes a \$150 million allocation to the California Community Colleges to implement the California Guided Pathways initiative.

Dr. Sonya Christian, president of Bakersfield College, is one of the statewide leaders of the initiative and has been working to develop a California model since February 2016. This current work builds upon the American Association of Community Colleges' Pathways Project model and incorporates California's education code and initiatives. The essentials of Guided Pathways are:

- Whole programs of study
- Informed choice and meta majors
- Default pathways
- Guaranteed milestone courses

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- Intrusive advising
- Math alignment to majors

Participating in Guided Pathways requires a heavy commitment and a dedicated collaborative effort. For example, Bakersfield College began its pathway in 2014 by documenting their Ed Plans, building student support services, creating Associate Degree for Transfer curricula, and implementing a strategic outreach and intake program. The college is now reviewing its instructional program pathways and considering how they can clarify the pathways for students. Refinements will continue through spring and summer of 2017, with a fully designed “Renegade Roadmap” in place by fall.

Guided Pathways is a natural extension of many initiatives that are helping community colleges to redesign curricula and improve student outcomes. Projects such as the California Acceleration Project and the Career Ladders Project can help to inform Guided Pathways as it relates to historically disadvantaged students. The Multiple Measures Assessment Project can also serve as a cornerstone of Guided Pathways to help students start college courses with the best opportunity for success. Dr. Christian believes that with Guided Pathways, “California is going to soar!”

For more information, visit [caguidedpathways.org](http://caguidedpathways.org). To learn more about Bakersfield College’s Guided Pathways work, visit <https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/employees/professional-development/pathways-institutes>.

### **Learning the Challenges and Successes of Guided Pathways**

The Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) held workshops in December and January that demonstrated strong support and interest in California Guided Pathways. Keynote speaker [Davis Jenkins](#), Senior Research Associate at the Community College Research Center and co-author of *Redesigning America’s Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success* (Harvard University Press, 2015), described some of the challenges and successes of implementing Guided Pathways. Jenkins provided examples of early evidence of success in community colleges throughout the U.S., citing increases in six-year graduation and transfer rates, as well as acceleration of college entry and units completed. [Click here](#) to see slides from his presentation.

### **Regional Learning Collaborative in Action**

A group of dedicated education and business leaders in Pomona have coalesced around a shared vision to increase the number of local students who get to and through college. On Feb. 1, the Pomona Regional Learning Collaborative (PRLC) met to continue its work to align policies, programs and focused strategies that better pave the pathway for students to complete community college and/or a four-year degree.

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The PRLC has three primary objectives:

1. Facilitate communications among participating schools, education systems, and business leaders.
2. Measure and track cohorts of students throughout the K-job pipeline through a complete and linked regional data set.
3. Demonstrate improvement in high school to college throughput and completion.

At the convening, leaders discussed and debated three targeted strategies across institutions:

- Expansion of dual enrollment courses among Pomona USD, area community colleges and Cal Poly Pomona.
- Increased and formalized articulation of courses, competencies and skills across institutions, including co-designed courses for 12<sup>th</sup> graders in math and English.
- Expansion of College Attainment Peer Mentors to increase students' college knowledge and social acclimation to college.

The PRLC is led by the [Claremont Evaluation Center](#) at [Claremont Graduate University](#), [Pomona Unified School District](#), and Cal-PASS Plus. In addition, PRLC has many committed education, foundation, and business partners. This type of focused collaboration will be a powerful boost for the students in the Pomona area to help them achieve their dreams.

### **Tools and Tips: High School-to-Community College Transition Framework - Young Men of Color (YMOC)**

A High School-to-Community College Success Factor Framework for Young Men of Color is now available on the Cal-PASS Plus website. This new tool is part of a suite of frameworks available to the public that summarize the policies, procedures, and principles applied by schools and colleges across California that outperform expectations in transitioning their students from high school to community college.

As with other resources available on Cal-PASS Plus, the tool can be used to analyze how effectively practices are applied and to build a plan for student success based on what works. Educators, policymakers, and parents can use it to understand where their schools and colleges stand relative to top performing systems.

[How to View the High School to Community College Transition – Young Men of Color tool:](#)

1. Go to <http://www.calpassplus.org/>, log in, and then select the “Community Colleges” tab.
2. Select “Success Factors” from the drop-down menu to be directed to the Success Factors Framework.

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3. Select “YMOC” from the menu directly above “Success Factors” to be directed to the Transition Framework for young men of color.

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