

## **Consortium Application for Innovation Grant—Funding the Guided Pathways Initiative**

### **GOAL 1: Reducing Barriers to Student Progress at Key Choke Points through Guided Pathways**

- 1) Transition from High School and Accessing Lifelong Learning
- 2) Aligning Assessment and Placement for Student Success
- 3) Onboarding for Early College Readiness and Choice of Career Cluster
- 4) Connecting Students to College: Cohorts, Learning Communities, Integrated Support
- 5) Accessible Academic Support: Bringing Support to the Student
- 6) Basic Skills Reform: Multiple Pathways, Intrusive Support, Reducing Time to Readiness
- 7) Clear Maps of Course Sequences in Programs of Study, Based on SLO Alignment

### **GOAL 2: Aligning Scope, Funded Activities, Planning, Technical Assistance, Accountability Metrics, and Reporting for**

- 1) Student Success,
- 2) Student Equity,
- 3) Basic Skills, and
- 4) Strong Workforce

Sent November 10, 2017

This is a follow up to our conversation about working together through a planning mini-grant from College Futures Foundation. The purpose of the mini-planning grant is to prepare for filing an application to receive funds through the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education state budget allocation. As explained on the DoF web site ([link](#)), "The program will recognize innovations at California's colleges—and, potentially, with other partners—that are expected to reduce the time it takes students to complete degrees and credentials, reduce the total cost of attendance for students, or do both."

Both Sacramento City College--and Los Rios as a whole--as well as Mt. SAC are implementing innovations that reduce barriers to students' ability to access our colleges, navigate the challenges of becoming college ready, choose and enter a program of study, and achieve their educational goals. These innovations are faculty-driven, informed by data, and are scalable and sustainable. In so doing, we are integrating our Student Success, Student Equity, and Basic Skills plans and resources in a manner that provides a clear, focused, guided pathway for students.

Other partner colleges are at various stages of this same journey: Bakersfield College, Irvine Valley College, Long Beach City College, Sierra College, and MiraCosta College. By sharing effective practices, we can pool our collective experiences to increase our students' success. Furthermore, we can potentially blaze a trail for the Community College System as it seeks to both integrate planning and effectively use combined categorical funds to markedly improve student access, equity, and completion. As is the hallmark of our diverse community college system, this integrated system will be flexible rather than prescriptive, responsive to local needs rather than a one-fits-all solution, and involve metrics that both provide accountability for the state's investment and are broad enough to be responsive to local practices.

The College Futures Foundation (CFF) has been amazing in providing support for this effort. Through dialog of the leadership here at Mt. SAC with CFF, we have produced the attached narrative for the planning grant application and a request for funding of \$35,000. Proposing a flexible process that allows for a range of both

involvement and commitment by colleges, we aspire to bring our college teams together for two working sessions, one in the Sacramento area and another in the Costa Mesa area, to hammer out a strategy for our colleges to receive Innovation Awards. The result may be a proposal that forms 1) a consortium with a shared work plan, or 2) a cooperative that spells out specific tasks to be knit together, or 3) a loose collaborative of shared goals and individual activities. Regardless, our work together will be stronger than our work apart.

As a first step, it would be helpful to have your response to the combined effort, and if supportive, to identify both a point person and a team of five or so to be involved in the two planned meetings. Follow up would then begin, in preparation for the two working sessions, by sharing current practices, communicating electronically, agreeing on logistics, and creating both an overall agenda and a specific agenda for our first working session.

It would be neglectful not to mention the exciting work going on to create the California Guided Pathways Project ([link](#)) led by Sonya Christian, President of Bakersfield College. This project is derived in part from the experiences of BC, IVC, and Mt. SAC through the AACC Pathways Project ([link](#)). With College Futures Foundation funding, along with the help of several institutional partners, an organizational structure is being created that may very well be the sustaining framework for the integrated system described above.

These are unique times that call for aggressive, visionary, passionate solutions. We are the gang that possesses those qualities PLUS the on-the-ground experience to create a new reality.