

AACC Pathways Project - College Selection Results

10/29/2015



Good afternoon, President Scroggins -

Thank you for your participation in the application process for the AACC Pathways Project. We were encouraged and inspired by the tremendous response to the request for applications. All of our project partners participated in reviewing the expansive pool of applications and readiness assessments submitted by colleges. Through that review, 48 colleges were selected as finalists; they then participated in the interview process, conducted again by pairs of partners.

The enthusiasm expressed by applicants affirms our conviction that scaling comprehensive Pathways reforms at community colleges across the country will play a major role in the national college completion agenda. That enthusiasm and commitment also made this a very competitive selection process, involving difficult decisions among many high-quality applications.

We are delighted to inform you that Mt. San Antonio College is one of the 30 colleges selected to participate in the Pathways Project. Congratulations! We were impressed by the depth and quality of your institutional efforts to date, and the partners are excited to be working with you in the next few years, not only to advance the efforts of your institution, but also to provide a model for scaling pathways for the community college field. Thus, there are over 1100 other institutions that potentially will benefit from your work on this project.

The hard work to prepare for first Pathways Institute will begin very soon. Please note the following upcoming tasks:

- Designate a **team facilitator** to represent the institution. The team facilitator is the main point of contact for all Institute-related communication. This person will also be responsible for coordinating and submitting your team's advance work for each Institute and will be the primary contact for your Pathways Coach. We recommend the Chief Academic Officer serve in this role. Please email the name of the team facilitator to Gretchen Schmidt (gschmidt@aacc.nche.edu) as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, November 6th.
- Your **advance work assignments** for the February 3-6 institute will be forwarded to the team facilitator for your institution on November 30th.
- By November 13th the team facilitator also will receive information from the Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE) about **online registration of college team members for the February 3-6 institute**.
- Requested composition of the college team for the February institute includes: **the CEO, a governing board member, the chief academic officer, the chief student services officer, and a faculty leader**. Please plan now for that participation.
- In addition, we ask that you **identify the members of a core Pathways team** for your institution in the coming days. While this will vary by institution, we suggest a core team of institutional leaders with representation across campus functions including

faculty, student services, institutional research, and administration. Specifically, we suggest that at least two faculty members be on the core team. It is entirely possible that this leadership team for designing and implementing pathways at scale may partially or wholly overlap with an existing group at your institution.

· Please confirm all six of the following Institute dates on your calendar. As a reminder, the CEO of the institution is expected to attend all of the Institutes with the college team, though the other members of that team will vary in accord with institute topics. The Institute dates are:

Institute #1 - February 4-6, 2016 - San Antonio, TX

Institute #2 - April 14-16, 2016 – Washington, DC

Institute #3 - October 2-4, 2016

Institute #4 - February 2-4, 2017

Institute #5 - June 22-24, 2017

Institute #6 - October 26-28, 2017

Your institution will be assigned a Pathways Coach to help support and advance your work plan over the next three years. We will send the name and contact information of your Coach in the coming weeks and you can expect to be contacted by your Coach before the end of November.

Your institution's next communication about the Institutes will come from Coral Noonan-Terry, program manager at the Center for Community College Student Engagement. Coral will be leading all of the Institute coordination on behalf of CCCSE and will be in touch with logistics about the first Institute in the coming days.

Attached please find a sample press release about the Pathways Project that you can customize and share with your stakeholders and local media.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns you may have. Again, our heartfelt congratulations on your selection to the project, and we very much look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Kay McClenney, Ph.D.
Senior Advisor to the President & CEO
Project
American Association of Community Colleges
Colleges
kmcclenney@aacc.nche.edu

Gretchen Schmidt, Ed.D.
Executive Director of the Pathways
American Association of Community
gschmidt@aacc.nche.edu

[Pathways Project](#)