

2016 Bellwether Awards Application Form

Bellwether Awards Proposal for Presentation

2016 Community College Futures Assembly

Jan. 22– 26, 2016 at the Hilton in the Walt Disney World Resort, Orlando, Florida

Please type or print; duplicate this form for additional applications.

1. **Category of Award** (choose one): ☒ Instructional Programs & Services ☐ Workforce Development
☐ Planning, Governance & Finance

2. College Name Mt. San Antonio College
Street Address 1100 N Grand Ave
City Walnut State CA Zip 91789
Principal Contact Person (Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms.) Dr. Irene Malmgren
Title/Department Vice President, Instruction
Phone Number (_____) _____ FAX Number (_____) _____
Phone Number (909) 274-5414 FAX Number (909) 468-4184
E-mail imalmgren@mtsac.edu

3. **Title of Presentation:** Pathways to Transfer: Accelerating Students into Transfer-Level Courses

4. **Presenters:** The Assembly encourages presentations from leadership teams (president, vice president/dean, program director). If additional members are part of the presentation, please list these individuals in the space provided below. **The principal contact identified in item #2 above is responsible for advising all other presenters about conference plans and arrangements.**

All presenters are required to register and pay the conference registration fee. Finalists will be eligible to receive the discounted Affiliate Registration fee.

1. Name (Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms.) Dr. William Scroggins
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2. Name (Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms.) Dr. Irene Malmgren
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3. Name (Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms.) Ms. Margaret Whalen
 College Name Mt. San Antonio College
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4. Name (Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms.) Mr. Akira (Art) Nitta
 College Name Mt. San Antonio College
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 Title/Department Professor, Mathematics
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5. **Content of Presentation:** Please submit an electronic copy (via email or on disk) of a **50-words-or-fewer description** for the Assembly program AND an additional **one-page summary** explaining why this program or activity meets the award criteria and how it will be presented as a concurrent session at the CC Futures Assembly (sessions will last one [1] hour). We ask that all application materials be kept together, so space is included at the end of this document for these descriptions.

6. **Audio/Visual Equipment:** The Institute of Higher Education/UF will cover the cost of standard audio/visual equipment. Finalists will be notified regarding audio/visual ordering arrangements.

7. **Expenses:** Neither honoraria nor expenses will be paid to program presenters. All presenters are required to register and pay the conference affiliate registration fee.

Guaranteed Satisfaction: As a demonstration of the Assembly's commitment to quality, if any Community College Futures Assembly registrants are not *totally satisfied* with the quality of the Assembly's learning experiences, their *registration fee will be refunded*.

8. Questions concerning the proposals should be directed to the Community College Futures Assembly at:
 E-mail: **futures@coe.ufl.edu** or phone: 352 273 4293

Award Selection Process: Proposals for the Bellwether Awards will be competitively reviewed, and ten finalists in each category will be selected based on the criteria. Finalists will be required to present at the CC Futures Assembly and will be encouraged to provide evidence of program results. These results will be used in selecting the final award recipients. Notification of finalists is planned by late November.

The application deadline is October 19, 2015.

E-mail to: **futures@coe.ufl.edu**

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Program Description (50 words or fewer):

Pathways to Transfer offers students who tested into developmental English and math an opportunity to complete three sequential courses within two consecutive terms through guaranteed enrollment and a linked learning course. In addition to an accelerated timeline, participants interact with the same professor, classmates, and tutors in a cohort environment.

1 – Minute video link (optional): Please upload your video to YouTube and include the video-link below. *[By giving this link, your institution releases this video for Futures Assembly to publicize. Selected videos maybe publicized on our website, social media sites, and other channels].*

Program Summary (no longer than one page, with 1" margins, font no smaller than size 10):

Mt. San Antonio College's (Mt. SAC) *Pathways to Transfer* program addresses a critical issue among community colleges: low persistence and success rates in developmental English and math courses. Assessment data show that nearly all of Mt. SAC's entering students need developmental instruction in English, reading, and/or math. Low placement levels lead to low term-to-term persistence rates and a low rate of students completing certificates/degrees and/or transferring to baccalaureate degree programs.

Pathways to Transfer helps students who tested into developmental English or math reach transfer-level courses. It is an intensive program that offers students who placed at two levels below college-level English or math an opportunity to complete three sequential courses within two consecutive terms through guaranteed enrollment and a linked learning course. In addition to an accelerated timeline, the students learn from the same professor, interact with the same classmates, and receive support from the same tutors in a cohort learning community environment.

Participating students take a developmental English or math course during the six-week intersession (winter or summer), and the next two courses in the sequence during the following semester at an accelerated eight-week pace. Successful completion of each course guarantees enrollment in the sequential course and keeps students on track for completion. Rather than the normal progression of three classes over three semesters, students are immersed in an engaging learning experience over an intersession and a semester, completing coursework in 22 weeks instead of the traditional 48 weeks.

Mt. SAC piloted *Pathways to Transfer* during the Winter 2014 term with three reserved classes in English 67 and four reserved classes in Math 50 for program participants. These participants then moved into the next two consecutive levels of English and math during the Spring 2014 term, in back-to-back eight-week sessions. The course success rate among *Pathways* participants in English 1A (college-level) was 79.0%, compared to just 64.3% of non-*Pathways* students. Likewise, the success rate among *Pathways* participants in Math 71 (college-level) was 69.6%, compared to just 45.2% of non-*Pathways* participants. These substantial differences in course success rates led the college to open the program to additional cohorts in the Summer 2014 term, and the college has continued the program each term.

After three completed cohort sessions, the successful completion and persistence rates are dramatic, with a marked increase over non-*Pathways* course sections. Mt. SAC is currently examining ways to scale up the program, based in part on the overall 17.7% increase in success rate for *Pathways* students completing college-level English composition, as well as an overall 21.9% increase in college-level math when compared to success rates for non-*Pathways* students enrolled in the same courses.

In addition to analyzing the quantitative data on course outcomes and persistence, the college has surveyed *Pathways* participants each term, in order to gather qualitative data to improve program delivery. Among participants in *Pathways* courses:

- 89% agree/strongly agree that they are satisfied with the program
- 85% agree/strongly agree that they are prepared for their next math or English course
- 85% agree/strongly agree that having a designated tutor in class is helpful
- 90% agree/strongly agree that they would recommend the *Pathways* program to a friend
- 88% agree/strongly agree that they are more committed to taking the next course in the sequence since *Pathways* gives them easier access to the next course.

The biggest challenges Mt. SAC has experienced are recruiting more faculty to participate in the accelerated format and linked learning structure, scheduling, getting students enrolled in the next course in the sequence, and making counselors aware of the program so they can refer students to participate. Between each cohort session, the faculty, staff, and administrators involved in *Pathways* have made adjustments to better address these challenges. The benefits to students are evident through the vast improvements in course success, completion, and persistence rates. The fourth group of *Pathways* cohorts will complete the program at the end of the Fall 2015 term, and Mt. SAC will continue to expand the number of cohorts participating each session.