



# CALIFORNIA GUIDED PATHWAYS PROJECT



The California Guided Pathway Project is designed to substantially increase the number of students who earn a certificate or degree at a California Community College. The project will help California Community Colleges implement an integrated, institution-wide approach to student success by creating structured educational experiences that support each student from beginning to end.

## What are Guided Pathways?

Guided Pathways are based on structured educational experiences that guide students from entry to graduation. The model helps colleges clarify paths to student end goals, helps students select and stay on path, and ensures quality learning. California Guided Pathways project was modeled from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Pathways Project and adapted for implementation in California.

A broad-based group of representatives from colleges, system offices, technical assistance providers, and advocacy organizations are supporting improving student completion rates through the Guided Pathways model.

The Guided Pathways model is based on four essential ‘pillars’ that make up the fundamental components for implementing a successful model at each campus:

- Clarify the path
- Help students choose and enter a pathway
- Help students stay on the path
- Ensure that students are learning

Guided Pathways are centered around clear, coherent program maps—which include specific course sequences, progress milestones, and program learning outcomes—that are aligned to what will be expected of students in the workforce and in continued education for their field. Students receive help with exploring academic and career options, choosing a program of study, and developing a plan based on the program maps.

## College Participation

Through a competitive application process, 20 California Community Colleges have been selected for the project. College teams are participating in six two-day institutes, which focus on planning required to implement a pathway model on campus. Each college will also receive support from a team of pathway coaches to assist with implementation. Participating Community Colleges will implement a guided pathways model by 2019.

### Contact

Dr. Rob Johnstone  
*Project Lead*  
T: 650.740.1796  
E: rob@ncii-improve.com

Sandra Fried  
*Executive Director, Success Center*  
E: sfried@foundationccc.org  
foundationccc.org/guidedpathways

### Project Funders

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Colleges Futures Foundation
- The James Irvine Foundation
- Teagle Foundation

### Current Participating Colleges

- American River College
- Bakersfield College
- Butte College
- Cabrillo College
- Chaffey College
- College of the Canyons
- Cosumnes River College
- Cuyamaca College
- Irvine Valley College
- Long Beach City College
- Los Angeles Trade Tech College
- MiraCosta College
- Modesto Junior College
- Mt. San Antonio College
- Norco College
- Reedley College
- Rio Hondo College
- Riverside City College
- San Joaquin Valley College
- Santa Ana College
- Santa Barbara City College
- Southwestern College
- Yuba Community College

The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official foundation to the California Community Colleges’ Board of Governors and Chancellor’s Office. The Foundation’s mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community College system, the largest higher education system in the nation. Incorporated in 1998, the Foundation works with Community Colleges and partner organizations to manage donations, grants, programs, and services that drive excellence in education. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit corporation and receives no direct state support.

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