



Guided Pathways and Student Success updates October 2023

2023-2024 STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER THEME: STAYING ON THE PATH

Colleges across Washington have been hard at work with using Guided Pathways as a framework for institutional change to advance equity and student success for many years and while we are making important progress, there is still a lot of work to do. Guided Pathways is about transformative systemic change, and that requires us to stay the course, especially when it's hard. And we have experienced hard times over the last few years. As we enter this new academic year, the theme for the Student Success Center is aligned with the third pillar of Guided Pathways, Staying on the Path.

This theme is twofold. First, it aligns with our system work for technology integration and adoption. The Student Success Center will be working with key teams in IT to implement changes in ctLink that will create more ease of use for those closest to supporting students along their pathway. Moreover, we will be engaging systemwide to support the adoption of student support software that aids in retaining students and supports their path to completion. More information will be shared throughout fall on the next steps in this work and opportunities for you to be involved.

Second, this theme is a reminder for the importance of us to not lose sight of our commitment to student success. While there are many strategies we can use to advance student success, Guided pathways is a framework that touches every aspect of student learning and their campus experience. We are fortunate to be a state that has had historic investment from our state legislature, providing us resources to advance this work in service to our diverse communities. Our team is here to support you, provide guidance, technical assistance, and provide thought partnership. As detailed below, we also have an updated [Peer and Professional Learning Calendar](#) that is crafted to provide information, education, and training on high impact practices to move your campus work forward.

STAFFING UPDATES

Dawn Draus joined the Student Success Center as the Policy Associate for Math Pathways and Placement. Dawn has served as a tenured math instructor at Lower Columbia College for the last 20 years, with the last 15 as Department Chair. In this capacity she has provided leadership in reforming mathematics curriculum, instruction, and placement practices on multiple projects. Some of these initiatives include the Transitions Math Project, a Gates funded Rethinking Pre-College Math Project, the College Spark Washington funded Bridge to College Math Course where she was both a trainer and curriculum resource leader, and a member of the LCC Guided Pathways Executive Steering Committee. Dawn has also worked closely with the Basic Education for Adults team to offer statewide training on aligning and articulating math pathways, bringing together BEa and Math faculty to deepen collaboration. In addition to the initiatives Dawn has been a part of, those who have worked with her sing her praises as an incredible teacher and trainer.

Amunoo Tembo joined the Student Success Center as the Policy Associate for Student Success and Pathway Navigation. Amunoo formerly supported Tacoma Community College's instructional assessment practices and happily welcomed the opportunity to serve the college's efforts to expand the assessment practices to other divisions. Prior to student learning assessment work, Amunoo was an academic advisor and wholeheartedly enjoyed working with staff, faculty, and administrators to serve students. In her most recent work, Amunoo's interest in working with organizations to improve the student experience kept her humbled in her roles.

Welcome Dawn and Amunoo!

REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Community College Research Center Scale of Adoption Survey (SOAS)

Last year Washington, Ohio, and Tennessee were selected to complete the Scale of Adoption Survey (SOAS) in support of a National Science Foundation funded project with the Community College Research Center. Thirty colleges in Washington completed the survey, and the report from the survey, "[Whole-College Guided Pathways Reform Practices: Scale of Adoption by Community Colleges in Three States](#)" is available now.

A key takeaway from this report is the importance of moving to scale in our Guided Pathways work across the system. I am heartened that some of the areas identified as areas for improvement in the report align with our center priorities this year around deepening focus on advising, career and employment services, and student progress monitoring.

Dr. Debra Bragg also led a webinar in June 2023 on Washington results from the SOAS. [Slides](#) and a [recording](#) of that webinar are available. Dr. Bragg will also be presenting on her analysis of this data at the fall Research and Planning Commission meeting. A webinar from the Community College Research Center will be scheduled this fall.

Legislative Evaluation

The Washington State Institute of Public Policy (WSIPP) is working closely with the Student Success Center and Policy Research team to gather the data needed to support their reporting on Guided Pathways Implementation to the legislature.

Their preliminary evaluation, due December 2023, will draw from quantitative Data from SBCTC First Time Enrolled in College dashboard and qualitative data from a survey sent to the colleges in December. WSIPP will release drafts of the evaluation prior to submission to the legislature so that there will be opportunity for system feedback.

College Spark Washington Evaluation

As College Spark Washington funding has ended for Cohorts one and two, Bob Watrus and Deena Heg have embarked on an evaluation of Guided Pathways implementation for early adopter colleges. Over the last year they have spoken to a variety of individuals from across the college system and reviewed data. They will be presenting their preliminary results at the Presidents Academy meeting on October 5th at Centralia College, with the report available this fall. Additional opportunities to hear from the College Spark Washington evaluators will be made available throughout fall quarter.

2024-2026 GUIDED PATHWAYS WORK PLAN

The Student Success Center will preview an updated biennial Guided Pathways Work Plan based off of the Scale of Adoption Survey with the addition of action oriented planning questions during fall 2023. This survey will be sent to all commissions for feedback prior to implementation of the updated plan. Plans will be released in early Winter 2024 and due the end of Spring 2024.

GUIDED PATHWAYS ADVISORY COUNCIL (GPAC)

As of June 2023, the Guided Pathways Advisory Council is embedded in the WACTC structure, reporting to the Educational Services Committee. This strategic shift ensures that there is guidance, advice, and communication within and across WACTC regarding critical work occurring in Guided Pathways at a system level.

The primary focus for GPAC this year will be on Guided Pathways practices and ctclink/technology integration. In addition to receiving Guided Pathways updates, GPAC members will be able to provide guidance, advice, and/or feedback regarding our work in this area and beyond. Some planned activities for this work include:

- Collaboration required to develop business process guides for advising and retention that center Guided Pathways principles
- Business process mapping and analysis necessary for ctclink improvements and student success software integration
- Increased contextualized professional development offerings that integrate ctclink and student success software

GPAC Dates:

- Friday, October 20th from 9:00-10:30 am (ZOOM)
- Friday, March 15th from 9:00-10:30 am (ZOOM)
- Friday, May 10th from 9:00-10:30 am (ZOOM)

GUIDED PATHWAYS PEER AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CALENDAR

[The Guided Pathways Peer and Professional Learning Calendar](#) has been updated for the 2023-2024 academic year. The purpose of this calendar is to provide a comprehensive listing of intentional and collaborative peer and professional learning opportunities. These events, a variety of workshops, institutes, communities of practice, and lunch and learn webinars, are intended to support system understanding of the guided pathways framework, application of essential practices to local contexts, experimentation with connections among practices, evaluation of the impact on equitable student success, and adaptation and iteration of practices.

While this calendar is built out for the remainder of the calendar year, the Student Success Center team is continuing to plan additional events that support Guided Pathways Implementation.

MATH PATHWAYS & PLACEMENT

Math faculty across the state continue to work to improve the percent of students who complete a college-level math course in their first year. Two common strategies are corequisites and placement reform; however, much work remains to be done to bring both strategies to scale.

This year the Student Success Center is offering a series of in-person quarterly retreats for math faculty to highlight the work that has already been done, provide an opportunity to learn from others, and consider how those experiences might influence continued efforts. The Fall Math Retreat on October 27 at Highline is free to all SBCTC members and will focus on implementing corequisites and guided/directed self-placement. Attendees will have an opportunity to dig into their college's completion data, learn from colleagues, and reflect on their own practice.

Additional opportunities for collaboration and learning include:

- Winter and Spring Math Retreats
- BEdA Math Pathways Workshops
- Creating a Social Justice Themed MATH& 107 Faculty Learning Community
- Exploring Data Science Faculty Learning Community
- Building Thinking Classrooms Faculty Book Club

For more information about Math Pathways and Placement work happening in Washington, please read the [Fall Newsletter](#), join the [CTC Math Listserv](#), and/or email Dawn Draus to get enrolled in the [Math Pathways and Placement Canvas](#) course.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AND ENSURED LEARNING

New Faculty Institute at the Virtual Student Success Summit Conducted Sept 5-8th. Designed to help new community college faculty learn about different teaching frameworks and how to apply them in their own teaching. Included presentations by content experts and brief introductions to SBCTC and the Student Success Center, as well as breakout sessions for networking and Q&A.

Keynotes and presenters:

- September 5th: Anti Racist Teaching Practices, featuring author Felica Rose Chavez
- September 6th: Active Learning Pedagogy, featuring BEdA faculty Dawn Kroontje and Christie Knighton
- September 7th: Inclusive Pedagogy, featuring author Jeremiah J. Sims, Ph.D.
- September 8th: Open Pedagogy, featuring teaching and learning professional Christie Fierro

Faculty Development Community of Practice Launched Aug 22nd. Provides a forum for faculty developers to share ideas, best practices, and resources. It is also a place to connect with other faculty developers, build relationships, and identify opportunities for collaboration. This [CoP](#) meets monthly and includes faculty developers from all of the 34 community and technical colleges in Washington State with a variety levels and titles such as faculty leads, teaching and learning directors, and deans.

Assessment, Teaching and Learning Conference 2024 dates and location confirmed. May 2-3rd at the Yakima Convention Center. The Assessment, Teaching, and Learning Conference is a two-day event that will bring together faculty and teaching and learning professionals in our system. The conference will explore a variety of topics related to faculty and student success and will feature keynote speakers, panel discussions, and breakout sessions. There will also be opportunities for networking and collaboration.

COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY

Your voice is essential to my understanding of this work and our shared pathway forward. I am available anytime you need information, have a question, or would like to provide input on how we are doing. Please contact me, Monica Wilson, or any member of our team to connect.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER TEAM

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