

# Guided Pathways:

An Overview and Practical Applications for DEAC Institutions

Jennifer Kalfsbeek-Goetz, Ph.D., Dean

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# WHY Guided Pathways?

**Traditional Approaches to higher education are failing millions of post-WWII students.**

## ▶ Access to education and the American Dream

- ▶ **1944 GI Bill:** Federal college funding for returning vets → to integrate back into workforce
- ▶ **1960's: Civil Rights** movements & Federal grants/loan programs for low- & moderate-income students
  - ▶ Impacted *access* to higher education for women and people of color.
- ▶ **1990's ADA** opened the door to higher education for people with disabilities

## ▶ Open Doors are not enough ...

- ▶ **Less than 50% of African Americans** who enter college complete a degree in 6 years<sup>1</sup>.
  - ▶ About 1/3 have at least an associate's degree.
- ▶ **Less than 25% of Latinos** in the US possess an associate's degree.<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ **Less than 15% of low-SES students** graduate from college - even when prepared for college.<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ **Under 20% of graduates from high-poverty high schools** graduate from college within 6 years.<sup>4</sup>
- ▶ **Only 16% of people with disabilities** have completed at least a Bachelor' degree - compared to 34% of those with no disability.<sup>5</sup>

## ▶ **Students need more than *access* ... they need direction and support: Guidance**

# Guided Pathways: The Four Pillars

- ▶ DEAC schools exist to support students who need ACCESS to and SUCCESS in College
- ▶ Tenets of Guided Pathways are not new to many DEAC schools
- ▶ The Four Pillars of Guided Pathways:
  - I. Clarify Paths (pre-access)
  - II. Enter a Path (meaningful access)
  - III. Stay on a Path (guidance beyond access)
  - IV. Ensure Learning (success)

# I: Clarify Paths

1. Do you define all programs clearly and completely from beginning to end?
2. Have you integrated preparatory courses to successfully onboard students who may not arrive prepared?
3. Do you have systems in place to track and catch students as they progress and struggle? Are they effective - do you know?
4. Do you know what success looks like? How are your students doing?

## II: Enter a Path

1. Can students easily find and start your programs?
2. Are students supported in the application process or are they on their own?
3. Do applicants and new students understand program options clearly and do they confidently choose their pathway goals?
4. Do applicants and new students know their next steps after program completion? Careers? Additional education? Certification / licensure exams?

## III: Stay on the Path

1. Do students have the academic resources needed to support them through academic struggles?
2. Do staff / faculty check in with students regularly to assess their comfort, confidence and success in achieving or re-designing their goals?
3. Does your institution have affordable options to assist students with success? Financial Aid, OER/ZTC, free or loaner-laptops, etc.
4. Do students have support services to help them stay on track when life throws them a curve ball?

## IV: Ensure Learning

1. Has your institution established program-level learning outcomes aligned with the requirements for success in employment and further education in a given field?
2. Have you applied the results of learning outcomes assessment to improve the effectiveness of instruction across programs?
3. Do you integrate projects, internships, and other applied learning experiences to enhance instruction and student success in courses across programs of study?
4. Do you ensure the inclusion of effective teaching practices throughout courses and programs?

# What Guided Pathways is NOT:

- ▶ One-size-fits-all
- ▶ A quick fix
- ▶ An excuse to eliminate areas of study
- ▶ An end to educational exploration
- ▶ the elimination of rigor to increase “success” rates
- ▶ An initiative ... Guided Pathways is a change in culture. We have achieved it when we don't call it anything.



# Now What?

- ▶ What does this have to do with YOUR institution?
- ▶ How does your institutions stack up?
- ▶ Where might you have gaps and how might you increase success rates?
  - ▶ 80% on-time graduation- even among those who represent under-represented populations?
- ▶ How do you connect with the GP movement if / when you are meeting the goals of the pillars?
  - ▶ Your institution may partner with a college or university pre-pathway
  - ▶ As a partner serving as the next step or an extension of their career / schooling pathway
  - ▶ As a partner provider of basic skills / pre-professional / general education courses
  - ▶ Thoughts? Ideas? Questions?

# References:

1. “New Report Confirms the Large Racial Gap in College Completion Rates.” *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, 2017. Retrieved on March 25, 2018 at: <https://www.jbhe.com/2017/05/new-report-confirms-the-large-racial-gap-in-college-completion-rates/>
2. “The College Degree Gap Grows Wider...” *The HECHINGER Report*, 2016. Retrieved on April 1, 2018 at: <http://hechingerreport.org/25368-2/>
3. “Family Income and the College Completion Gap.” *John’s Hopkins Institute for Education Policy*, 2016. Retrieved on April 1, 2018 at: <http://edpolicy.education.jhu.edu/family-income-and-the-college-completion-gap/>
4. *2017 High School Bench Marks Report: National College Progression Rates*, 2017. Retrieved on April 9, 2018 at: <https://nscnews.org/nearly-1-in-5-graduates-from-high-poverty-high-schools/>
5. “People with a Disability Less likely to complete a Bachelor’s Degree.” *Bureau of Labor Statistics*, 2014. Retrieved on April 13, 2018 at: <https://nscnews.org/nearly-1-in-5-graduates-from-high-poverty-high-schools/>