

Pathways Education

A Tentative Plan

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Introduction:

As the college begins to organize around the Guided Pathways model, there will be questions and concerns at all levels, and that is to be expected. One of the best ways to alleviate such concerns is through education. To that end, I will be coordinating a college-wide discussion of *Redesigning America's Community Colleges* and other associated Pathways material. The more information we can share with faculty and staff about the Pathways concept and how it benefits our students, the better. After all, the ultimate goal of the effort is improved student success.

When Pathways was “unveiled” at College Community Week last February, much of the apprehension voiced by faculty and staff was rooted in uncertainty and ambiguity. By organizing a series of book and document discussions, throughout the 2016-17 school year, we can educate employees and offer clarification about the Pathways model and how it impacts them. We will begin with the aforementioned *Redesigning America's Community Colleges* – the goal – that all employees will read the text and attend a series of guided discussions about the text.

Plan:

Below is a very rough plan for approaching this effort. I have also included a {very} tentative timeline of sorts.

- I. **Identification of Discussion Leaders:** The first order of business is to identify faculty and staff who would be ideal for leading guided discussions about reading material such as *Redesigning America's Community Colleges*. I will reach out to Instructional Deans first, then to department chairs\college leaders to solicit names of individuals who would be strong facilitators for such discussions. I will compile a tentative list and forward the names to Martha Robertson and Dr. Williamson.
- II. **Meet with Discussion Leaders\Facilitators:** After discussion leaders\facilitators have been identified, I will contact each of them and invite them to an informational meeting {perhaps a lunch meeting}. The purpose of this meeting is to clarify the purpose and scope of the discussion groups. *I want to stress that the discussion groups are not a forum for debate about Pathways; rather, they are outlets for education and information delivery.* As such, each discussion meeting must be organized and focused. I will compile a series of discussion topics for each meeting. This will ensure that each discussion group achieves the same goals. I will also offer tips for activities that will facilitate comprehension.

- III. **Schedule Discussion Meetings:** We will begin in Fall 2016 with the guided discussion of *Redesigning America's Community Colleges*. I plan on breaking the text into three sections, covering a section each month {September-November}. I will schedule several meetings each month, so we will need several discussion leaders. The logical day for discussion meetings is Friday, but that is a detail that can be hammered out after discussion leaders have been identified {I'm thinking the third and fourth Friday of each month}. I will move between campuses as needed on discussion days. Each scheduled discussion session will cover the entirety of the scheduled monthly readings, so employees only need to attend one per month.
- IV. **Reporting:** Each discussion leader will submit monthly reports which will include a list of attendees, details about the meeting, objections\concerns that raised during the meeting, etc... I will create a form that will serve as a template for the report. All discussion leaders will have to do is fill in the blanks and submit the report to me via email. I will then compile a master report which offers a detailed record of monthly activity. This report will be forwarded to Martha Robertson and Dr. Williamson.
- V. **Tentative Schedule {through December 2016}:**
- **August 11, 2016 – August 19, 2016:** Identify discussion leaders\facilitators through collaboration with instructional deans and department chairs\college leaders.
 - **August 22, 2016-August 26, 2016:** Compile list of possible leaders\facilitators and forward list to Dr. Williamson and Martha Robertson. Finalize list by the end of the week {August 26, 2016}.
 - **August 29, 2016:** Contact possible discussion leaders via email.
 - **August 31, 2016:** Schedule informational meeting for discussion leaders.
 - **September 05, 2016-September 09, 2016:** Hold two informational meetings for discussion leaders\facilitators.
 - **September 23, 2016 AND September 30, 2016:** The first formal discussion meeting of *Redesigning America's Community Colleges* {Chapter I “Redesigning College Programs” and Chapter II “Guiding Students”}. *
 - **October 07, 2016:** Submit report of September meetings to Dr. Williamson and Martha Robertson.

- **October 21, 2016 AND October 28, 2016:** The second formal discussion meeting of *Redesigning America's Community Colleges* {Chapter III “Rethinking Student Instruction” and Chapter IV “Helping Underprepared Students”}.
 - **November 04, 2016:** Submit report of October meetings to Dr. Williamson and Martha Robertson
 - **November 11, 2016 AND November 18, 2016:** The third formal discussion meeting of *Redesigning America's Community Colleges* {Chapter V “Engaging Faculty and Staff” and Chapter VI “The Economics of College Redesign”}.
 - **December 02, 2016:** Submit report of November Meetings to Dr. Williamson and Martha Robertson}.
- We might want to include the Rob Johnstone article, “Guided Pathways Demystified: Exploring Ten Commonly Asked Questions about Implementing Pathways” in the reading assignment for the first meeting.