



The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) serves as the primary advocacy organization for the nation's community colleges. The association represents nearly 1,200 2-year, associate degree-granting institutions and more than 12 million students.

As one of the early leaders in advocating improved college completion and equity—and affirming the critical role of America's community colleges, AACC has assumed a leadership role in building capacity for community colleges to design and implement *structured academic and career pathways* at scale—for *all* of their students.

Building on emerging research and accumulating experience in the field, the pathways work reflects AACC's commitment to follow through strategically on recommendations set forth in the 2012 report of the 21st-Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges, *Reclaiming the American Dream*, and the 2014 implementation guide, *Empowering Community Colleges to Build the Nation's Future*.

### **National Partners**

Key national partners in the work have included **Achieving the Dream**, **Aspen Institute**, the **Center for Community College Student Engagement**, the **Community College Research Center**, **Complete College America**, **Carnegie Math Pathways/WestEd**, the **Charles A. Dana Center**, **Jobs for the Future**, the **National Center for Inquiry and Improvement**, and **Sova**.

### **Work in Support of Guided Pathways Design and Implementation**

**AACC Pathways Institutes.** In collaboration with partner organizations, AACC has developed a series of 2-day institutes through which college teams focus on the major tasks of guided pathways design and implementation at scale. Institutes involve advance work by participating colleges; plenary sessions offering expert presentations; interactive, topic-focused concurrent sessions; and college team strategy sessions for discussion and development of action plans. The current institute series, which also includes coaching visits to participating institutions, operates on a fee-for-service basis. (\$45,000/year for 3 years)

**Collaborative Work on Scaling Guided Pathways.** The AACC Pathways team works extensively with partners on projects including the Texas Pathways Initiative (led by the Texas Success Center); the California Guided Pathways Project (hosted by the Foundation for California Community Colleges and directed by the National Center for Inquiry & Improvement – NCII); the Maricopa Colleges Guided Pathways work, part of Maricopa's Transformation; various state-based Student Success Centers (led by Jobs for the Future); and institutional/consortium leaders in several states. (For information, contact Dr. Gretchen Schmidt, Executive Director, AACC Pathways Project, at [gschmidt@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:gschmidt@aacc.nche.edu))

**Regional Pathways Workshops: Pathways 101.** One-day regionally-located workshops provide foundation information about the guided pathways model leadership for large-scale institutional change, campus engagement and case making strategies, key performance indicators, and tools for planning the work. (2018-19 registration fee is \$250 for a 5-person college team)

**Communities of Practice: Guided Pathways & Large-Scale Institutional Change.** In collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, AACC fosters development of virtual communication and collaboration among leaders of guided pathways reforms in community colleges across the country. (Participation is free and warmly encouraged.)

**Online Pathways Resource Center:** [www.pathwaysresources.org](http://www.pathwaysresources.org). With extensive contributions from Pathways Collaborative organizations, AACC designed [www.pathwaysresources.org](http://www.pathwaysresources.org), a curated collection of print and video resources to support colleges in design and implementation of guided pathways at scale. (Access is free and globally available.)

**AACC Annual Convention Programming.** A premier gathering of community college leaders, the annual Convention provides extensive programming to share national expertise and campus experience in regard to guided pathways design and implementation. Periodically the AACC Pathways Project offers pre-convention workshops. (Registration fees apply; see the Convention website.)

**AACC Commission on Structured Pathways.** This appointed Commission involves college leaders in substantive discussion of guided pathways implementation, change leadership, and strategies for AACC's continuing support of college work. (For information, contact Sarah Cale, Pathways Project Program Manager, at [scale@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:scale@aacc.nche.edu).)

For further information about AACC's Pathways work, contact:

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