



**College of the Canyons**  
**Institutional Effectiveness and Inclusive Excellence (IE)<sup>2</sup>**  
**Steering Committee - Meeting Minutes**  
**October 10, 2023 3:00-5:00pm**

**1. Welcome**

- Meeting theme: Amplifying Student Voice

**2. Equitable Leadership**

- Equitable leadership is coming from the national equity project. This concept is seen as an inside out model instead of following a hierarchy of top to bottom. This honors the students at the middle of the conversation and it works in community WITH people instead FOR people. People from community are students that know themselves, they're experts in their own lives and know what they need. And so, we need to listen and work with people to uplift to them. Recognize the perspectives of the world through a window looking out and practice self-awareness in a mirror of looking in.
- We want to engage, and that's how we show up and engage relationally, how we listen, how we build relationships with people, how we create a container to hold the work that we're going to engage. How we act together, how we design an approach.

**3. Enhancing and Redesigning the Student Experience: A Conversation with Our Students**

- Student introductions
- Why did you decide to come to college and what motivated you to pursue classes at College of the Canyons?
  - Returning student after being a stay-at-home mom. Wanted to go back to school to figure out a career with the support of her husband. Started taking online classes but decided to take on campus classes and enjoys being around other students
  - Student began taking Spanish classes while studying at UCLA for her Ph. D. Went through a major life change and decided to start taking more classes at COC. She finished the Law pathways program and is now a part of the paralegal program. She started working at CCOC Canyons Country campus and enjoys getting to know students in person
  - Started as a welding student but decided to change major to writing to follow his passion
  - Student started online classes but did not feel motivated and decided to take more in person classes
- What do you aspire to do after taking classes at College of the Canyons?
  - Plan on transferring to a 4 year to pursue special education teaching
  - Going back to England and applying at Cambridge University
  - Student graduated with 3 degrees and now deciding which major to follow
  - Student currently Bio major and deciding if he will continue with the same major or change his path



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- Did you know what career and/or major you wanted to pursue prior to enrolling at College of the Canyons? Have you changed your major? If so, what influenced this change?
  - Student wanted to study English and ended up pursuing Psychology major
  - Started taking interest in photography since the student enjoyed class during high school. When they took art history class as one of the requirements, they changed to Art History major.
  - Student initially pursued Biology. After taking a Psychology class, they changed to Psychology major
  - Personal experience and good instructor played a part in pursuing majors
- Do you ever worry about not being able to complete your educational goal and how do you handle it?
  - Student identified as a “special ed student” in high school and was advised to visit academic accommodations office and helped in easing transition into college
  - Counseling appointments was hard to get
  - Student met with one of the counselors and had a bad experience. Student took time off out of frustration
  - Disability accommodations are not as clear to access
  - Lack of funding, lack of counseling, lack of support affected student’s experience
  - Infrastructure needs to be more user friendly
  - Lack of accessibility in the counseling department, not only at COC but all across the board
  - Student had a great experience with counseling department (especially Tony)
  - Being involved with Trans-Alliance made a huge impact on student’s experience
  - Finding community is a way to build connection
- What factors, beyond the school or virtual school walls, influence your educational journey?
  - Try to connect with students through clubs or work on campus
  - Being a part of Alliances and other clubs, student noticed the growth in numbers
  - During school year, it is nice to be surrounded with trans friends but outside of school, it is hard to find that community in Santa Clarita
  - Students struggled staying in school due to lack of financial help
  - Student who is on the spectrum had a hard time looking for on campus in-person classes



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- We need to find a way to give access to community, alliances or clubs for online students
- Increase visibility of Alliances on the COC website and social media
  
- Based on your experiences, what is one piece of advice would you give to a student who is attending college for the first time?
  - Internship experience is necessary
  - Involvement (sports, alliance, club, work)
  - Financial aid is available
  - Find your community, connections, club advisors
  - Be organized
  - Don't be afraid to make mistakes
  - Don't be afraid to ask for advise
  - Manage your time
  - Make connections with peers and professors
  - Give it your all

**4. Reflection on Takeaways from Student Panel**

- Alliances information are all in the COC website and perhaps we need to reach out to the students to increase visibility
- Need for more counselors is complicated but we need to look into how to improve service and meet student needs
- One bad experience with a counselor should not define the whole department

**5. Taking Canyons Completes to the Next Level – Insights from College of the Canyons Guided Pathways Regional Coordinator, Brandy Thomas**

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAFwgxpHCwc/Opr0y\\_bcE5MkYLLJ0SZ4AA/view](https://www.canva.com/design/DAFwgxpHCwc/Opr0y_bcE5MkYLLJ0SZ4AA/view)

- Self-Love- remember to breathe, do what feels right, show yourself grace
- We are all change agents on campus. Take a moment to be proud of yourselves for the change that you have accomplished and will continue to make.
  - Perspective of Student Experience: Start > Learn > Finish
  - Actual Student Experience: Lost > Overwhelmed > Not Finishing
- Vision 2030 Goals:



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- Equity in Access- having broad opportunities for all Californians to have access to education. Increase the number of students attending community college in particular students that are from underrepresented communities
- Equity in Success- Partner with systems agencies, community-based organizations to provide financial and social support necessary to accomplish their goals
- Equity in Support- Ensuring the learning and working in community to make sure that things are equitable, and our students have access, success and support

**GUIDED PATHWAYS PILLAR EVOLUTION**

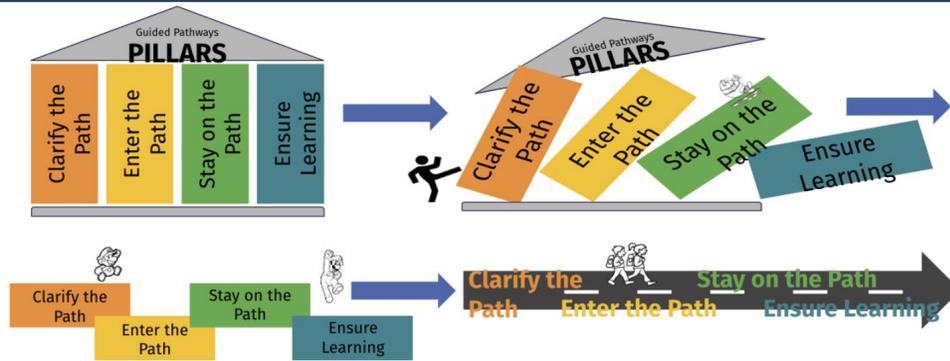


Image Source: Amanda Issa & Michelle Stricker , Guided Pathways Regional Coordinators (2022)

**GUIDED PATHWAYS STRATEGIC GOALS**

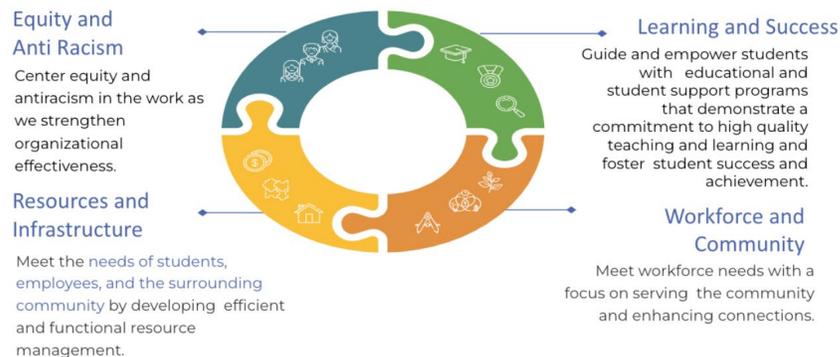


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**Equity Lens in Guided Pathways**

**FROM (OG Version)**

P1: Students pick classes with little to no guidance based of catalogs & "major sheets"



**TO (+ GP framework)**

Program Maps have course sequences, support services and career information built in.



**NOW (Equity Lens)**

Maps use inclusive & growth minded language.

P2: Academic Assessment



Holistic Assessment and connection to relevant resources.



All students start at transfer level & courses are created with embedded supports.

P3: All students received all supports a la cart



Case management practices identify students in need and deploy resources to students as needed.



Affinity grouping and DI student populations are given customized supports.

P4: Learning based on broad outcomes



Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) aligned with pathways and career goals.



Culturally relevant pedagogy & decolonizing the classroom.

**(1) EQUITABLE BACCALAUREATE ATTAINMENT**

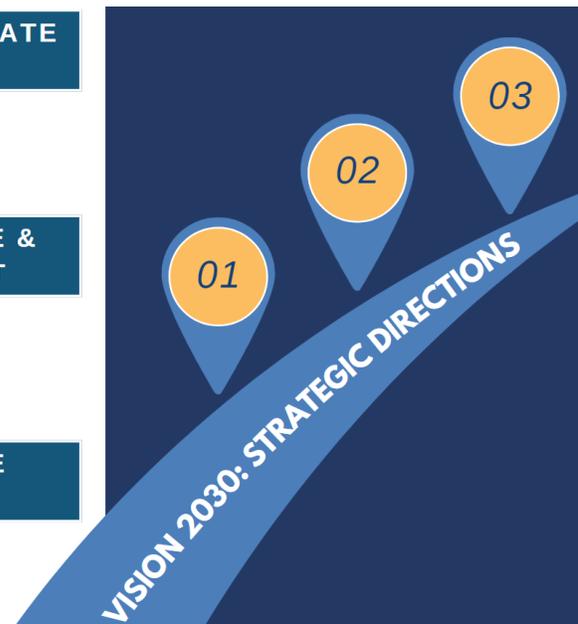
- Transfer
- CCC Bachelor's Degrees
- High School Students
- Adult Learners

**(2) EQUITABLE WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- High Roads Training Partnerships
- Healthcare
- Climate
- STEM
- Education

**(3) IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF LEARNING**

- Innovation & Sustainability
- Advanced Data Analytics
- Generative AI





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### FREEDOM DREAM

- Not just about this product, but about how we get there, and how we transform in, in the ways that we do things. It's not just about the product, it's about the process and the journey, which is something that we're telling our students that this is about your educational journey. Journey to reimagine and dream about how we can connect with students and how we can take College of the Canyons to the next level.
- Principles of freedom dreaming:
  - Actively uplifting the intricately connected and complex lives and stories of Black, Brown, Indigenous, Asian/Pacific islander, Latin/os/as/x, Arab, Middle Eastern and multiethnic people
  - Affirming and respecting all levels of ability, gender identity, sexuality, age, stages of healing and immigration status
  - Connecting people and communities to create shared visions with one another
  - Acknowledging and harnessing your own intrinsic power and expertise
  - Listening deeply while unlearning harmful ideologies
- Helping students feel welcome
  - Santa Rosa Junior College has peer to peer coaching. Helps students complete the steps to successful enrollment/priority registration
  - Helps students stay on track with their educational goals
  - Work with students to develop and refine skills for success
  - Connect students to campus resources and activities
  - Build community and belonging



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**Individual Freedom Dream Committee Discussion**

- Equitable environment
- Supporting and welcoming students- less sense of hierarchy in the classroom
- Someone has a team supporting incoming students
- Smaller faculty to student ratio
- Smaller counselor to student ratio
- Competition for homepage space, need to be future focused – more customized path, responsive website based on student needs
- Hitting on all of the student success redefined points
- Students need to feel safe and comfortable, and students will share

**Homework for November 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

**Directions:** At the October 10, 2023 committee meeting, the committee heard ideas from our Guided Pathways Regional Coordinator, Brandy Thomas, on how we can use the Guided Pathways framework to advance current efforts. Please use the questions below to reflect on strengths and opportunities for growth as they pertain to our Canyons Completes efforts.

1. How does my everyday work help foster students' connection to their pathway and the campus?

Strengths:

Opportunities to grow:

2. How do I build relationships with students, colleagues or departments to help foster students' connection to their pathway and the campus?

Strengths:

Opportunities to grow:

3. How does our institution help foster students' connection to their pathway and the campus?

Strengths:

Opportunities to grow:

4. How do we infuse caring for our students, each other and ourselves into our Guided Pathways Framework?

Strengths:

Opportunities to grow:

**Next Meeting:** November 14, 2023 (3-5pm)