Guided Pathways Reading Circle Summary

On April 28, 2018 the Chancellor’s Office hosted a Peer-to-Peer Work Plan Reading Circle event that gave college teams the opportunity to review each others’ Guided Pathways work plans. Over 200 individual participants from nearly 60 colleges came together to read all 114 Guided Pathways Work Plans in small regional and sub-regional groups.

The event also helped introduce the region-based structure for system-wide Guided Pathways support. Patterned after the 7 “Doing What Matters” regions, the Guided Pathways regional structure will improve collaboration between the Chancellor’s Office and colleges, while simultaneously enhancing learning and sharing between the colleges.

Each Reading Circle participant read at least two work plans from colleges in their region and one work plan from a college outside of their region. Analyzed through both regional and statewide lenses, the collaborative review and discussion consistently surfaced common themes, support needs, and keys areas of focus across work plans.

Below is a summary of the main takeaways from the event discussions. Sign up for the GP Connect newsletter to stay updated on Guided Pathways news, resources, promising practices, and more: cccgp.cccco.news.

KEY AREAS OF NEEDED FOCUS & SUPPORTS IDENTIFIED IN WORK PLANS

- Broaden Guided Pathways campus engagement
- Create cross-functional team structures to support collaborative work
- Review governance systems to foster inclusion
- Clarify decision-making and communication processes
- Develop a common glossary of Guided Pathways terms and concepts
- Plan meta-majors and curriculum pathways with integrated career exploration

COMMON THEMES IN VISION FOR REGIONAL COLLABORATION

- Establish regional coordinators to facilitate and sustain improvement efforts
- Schedule regular professional learning through regional workshops, site-based visits, webinars
- Crosswalk work plans to identify specific commonalities for shared learning opportunities
- Support regional dialogue around meta-majors, curriculum pathways, course scheduling, and work-based learning
- Build a centralized online platform to share resources, receive feedback on Guided Pathways work, and connect to other colleges working on similar institutional improvements
- Structure data sharing capacity across systems

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Visions for Regional Collaboration

**Bay Area**
- Utilize common student ID# to streamline data sharing
- Create a regional listserv to promote networking and community-of-practice development
- Facilitate targeted discussions/workshops around best practices for “breaking down silos”

**Central Valley/Mother Lode**
- Invite state and national “experts” to conduct regular training sessions for the region
- Rotate site visits to all colleges within the region
- Explore partnering on technology sharing/licensing

**Inland Empire/Desert**
- Create a regional “Learning Lab” to roll-out, share, and test activities
- Coordinate collaboration between regional college Academic Senates
- Collectively work with nearby transfer institutions

**Los Angeles/Orange County**
- Create role-specific and cross-functional inquiry groups among regional partners
- Leverage regional student focus groups and “student voice” opportunities
- Hold monthly regional meetings to assist partners overcome barriers in GP implementation work

**North/Far North/South Central Coast**
- Utilize online resources to show how other schools are implementing Guided Pathways
- Formalize campus visit structure to maximize time and effort required for in-person gatherings
- Develop a strategy for virtual engagement to overcome large distances between colleges

**San Diego/Imperial**
- Explore the possibility of a regional articulation officer
- Leverage San Diego/Imperial County Community College Association (SDICCCA) specifically for Guided Pathways collaboration
- Create a regional professional development collaborative and mentoring structure

**READING CIRCLE POSTERS**

The attached images show the work of reading circle participants mapping out work plan themes by sub-region and developing a regional vision for collaborating on Guided Pathways work moving forward.

*Click here to see the regional work group posters.*