

Rural Guided Pathways Project

Informational Webinar
February 09, 2022



NATIONAL
CENTER FOR
INQUIRY &
IMPROVEMENT

Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Rural Guided Pathways Project overview**
 - **Connection to Rural CC Leader Series**
 - **Professional development and support**
 - **Six Rural Pathway Institutes**
 - **Emerging Rural Pathway curriculum**
 - **Selection process and roll-out**
 - **What colleges should consider applying?**
 - **Criteria for Application Review**
- **Questions and NCI contact information**



About NCII

Authentic, large-scale improvement begins with colleges' rethinking how their policies, programs, and services come together to create the optimal student experience.

Focus Areas:

- **Guided Pathways**
- **Student Financial Stability**



Rural Guided Pathways Project Overview

A three-year project with a national cohort of 15 rural community colleges will work with each other — and with community partners in their regions — to implement the guided pathways framework.

Participating colleges commit to:

- **Designing and implementing a better student experience at their colleges.**
- **Collaborating with key stakeholders in their regions to increase economic opportunity and partner on a cross-sector approach to implement guided pathways.**
- **Implementing evidence-based reforms that will address inequities and lead to improved educational and workforce outcomes.**
- **Covering the cost of travel to and dinners at the in-person Rural Pathways Institutes**

<https://ncii-improve.com/rural-guided-pathways-project/>



Rural Guided Pathways Project Partners



Connection to the Rural CC Leader Series

Written by members of the Rural Leaders Learning Community:

- The Big Picture—Rural Community Colleges: Challenges, Context, and Commitment to Students
- Brief 1: Creating a College-Going Mindset
- Brief 2: Acting Boldly to Build Financial Solvency
- Brief 3: Cultivating Partnerships to Support Students' Basic Needs
- Brief 4: Diversifying Faculty at Rural Colleges
- Brief 5: Redesigning Advising and Support Services
- Brief 6: Collaborating to Create Regional Economic Opportunity

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What is innovative about this project?

This project is the first of its kind in two ways:

- **Rural focus. It is the first time a pathways institute structure is focused specifically on the needs of rural institutions.**
- **Community partners. It is the first time community partners are deeply embedded in pathways implementation.**

Project Professional Development and Support

Institutes

Six 2 ½ day institutes. Participating colleges will send an 8-person team to each institute.

Coaches/SMEs

Colleges will have an assigned coach and access to subject matter experts

Site Visits

Colleges will have one site visit from its rural pathways coach each year

Office Hours

Each college team will participate in two virtual office hours per semester

Virtual Consultancies

Each college team will be invited to two virtual consultancies per semester

Six Rural Pathways Institutes

#1

**June 27-29, 2022
Minneapolis, MN**

#2

**Oct. 19-21, 2022
Rural College - TBD**

#3

**Feb. 8-10, 2023
Birmingham, AL**

#4

**June 7-9, 2023
Virtual**

#5

**Oct. 18-20, 2023
Salt Lake, UT**

#6

**April 10-12, 2024
Pittsburgh, PA**

Emerging Rural Pathways Curriculum

- **Creating an infrastructure of opportunity**
- **Reconsidering and redesigning the institutional program mix**
- **Connection to college and connection to programs: The role of the institution and community stakeholders**
- **Integrating student financial stability structures**
- **Teaching and learning: Applied, experiential and cross-disciplinary**
- **Building continuous improvement and sustainability structures**

Selection Process and Roll-out



The application and participation agreement can be found on the NCII website:
<https://ncii-improve.com/rural-guided-pathways-project/>

What colleges should consider applying?

- College that have established the conditions that will enable their institutions to implement — at scale — pathways reforms.
- Ideally, colleges that have already begun the process of laying the groundwork for and/or implementing guided pathways and the underlying practices.
- Some colleges that may be far along in the implementation process that need to delve more deeply on certain areas of the framework.
- Successful colleges will demonstrate that they have the internal culture and the external partnerships needed to advance this work.

Criteria for Application Review

- **Description of the college service area and student population**
- **Notable national/state student success initiations and/or regional economic development initiatives**
- **Regional economic mobility opportunities/constraints**
- **Existing college partnerships and/or new opportunities**
- **The college's experience with guided pathways to date including developmental education reforms**
- **The college's readiness to implement guided pathways**
- **The top priorities the college articulates for this project**

QUESTIONS?

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