California Pathways Project Planning Grant Proposal

Integrating BSI, CCPT, SB1440, SSSP, and Equity to Support Transfer Success

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Background

In 2015, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) launched a project in partnership with CCSSE, ATD, the Aspen Institute, Jobs for the Future, and CCRC designed to help community colleges nationwide build capacity for structured academic and career pathways at scale. The project, funded generously by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is currently engaging 30 community colleges throughout the country to develop and implement guided pathways for all students by fall 2018. Through 6 institutes over the course of approximately 3 years, college leaders will work with expert coaches to examine their readiness for pathways, collect data on student enrollment, persistence, and completion, and to develop short and long term action plans. AACC selected three California community colleges to participate in this project: Irvine Valley College, Mt. San Antonio College, and Bakersfield College.

Through ongoing discussion, it is clear educational leaders in California are uniquely well-positioned to engage in this work. From using Multiple Measures to place students in higher levels of English and math while redesigning curriculum in basic skills to creating transfer pathways in response to SB 1440, CA community college leaders have created the foundation from which effective pathways work can grow. In addition, leaders are partnering with high schools, business and industry to create college and career ready pathways funded through CCPT grants. Finally, by creatively leveraging recent student success funding allocations, California community colleges are already engaged in an aggressive student success agenda. This transformational work is vital if educational leaders wish to address the significant need in the state by improving opportunities and support for students to enter and complete their programs of study. A California Guided Pathways Project will allow us to capitalize on that momentum and integrate the work to further move the dial on student success in the state.

California Guided Pathways Project

By summer 2017, Bakersfield College intends to launch a California Guided Pathways Project, similar to that launched by AACC, through which multiple community colleges throughout the state of California will develop structured academic and career pathways at scale. In the next 8 months, Bakersfield College will convene a group of educational leaders from colleges, research entities, and other community partners to develop a comprehensive implementation plan. This plan will include the work of the three California AACC Pathways participants along with several other colleges that are considering redesign measures to scale the pathways approach. This work will weave

together these major initiatives in California: SSSP, Equity[1], Basic Skills Initiative, Career Technical Education, and Associate Degree for Transfer Pathways.

Bakersfield College has already established multiple collaborative relationships:

Kay McClenney	Director, Center for the Community College Student Engagement Recognized leader for the 3-year AACC Pathways Initiative
Davis Jenkins	Senior Research Associate, Community College Research Center
Rob Johnstone	Founder & President, National Center for Inquiry & Improvement
Carol Lincoln	Vice President, Achieving the Dream
Josh Wyner	Executive Director, College Excellence Program, Aspen Institute
Linda Collins	Executive Director, Career Ladders Project
Gretchen Schmidt	Director, AACC Pathways Project
Darla Cooper	Senior Researcher, RP Group, California Community Colleges
Kathy Booth	Senior Researcher, West Ed
Paul Steenhausen	Executive Director, Student Success Center, CCC Foundation
Teresa Tena	Vice Chancellor of CCCCO responsible for IEPI
John Hetts	Researcher, Educational Results Partnership
Katie Hearn	Director, California Acceleration Project
Mayra Snell	Math Lead, California Acceleration Project
Michele Siqueiros	President, Campaign for College Opportunity
Louise Jaffe	Trustee, Santa Monica College
Bill Scroggins	President, Mt. Sac College
Bill Roquemore	President, Irvine Valley College

The strength of this project lies in the cadre of talent from national and California-based intermediary organizations. This cross-sector collaboration will strengthen the capacity and versatility of California-based intermediaries resulting in more well-developed regional structures to support statewide student success work.

Planning Period

Throughout the next 8 months, Bakersfield College will collaborate with national and California-based partners to develop and refine an implementation plan, including a grant narrative and budget for College Futures review. During this period, a planning team will meet twice in person.

[1] It is critical to note that an effective college redesign is one that is laser focused on moving from traditional structures that do not serve the predominantly low income students of color attending California Community Colleges. As such, the California Guided Pathways Project will initiate movement toward an institutional framework that places the needs of these disproportionately impacted student populations at the center of the work. By seeking to engage partners from the Central Valley, including those in our own district, as well as those colleges in the Los Angeles and Inland Empire area, BC hopes this project will reach a larger number of low income students of color. Additionally, BC will encourage the planning team to directly address equity in the recruitment and selection of participant colleges.

At the first convening in June 2016, a group of leaders will review the current AACC Pathways Project national model to redesign the Pathways Institute series for California. This process will ensure all institutes are tailored to the California community college context, including funding, accountability, collective bargaining, shared governance provisions, and a strong emphasis on equity.

At the second convening, the group will refine the resources required for implementation, including review of the application, final approval of a participant interview and selection process, and discussion of all pre- and post- institute work assignments.

Tentative Timeline:

June 2016	Planning Team Convening #1 in Los Angeles, CA
October 2016	Planning Team Convening #2 at TBD Location
November 2016	Submit Implementation Grant to College Futures
January 2017	CA Pathways Project Applications released
February 2017	CA Pathways Project Interviews; Implementation Grant Decision
March 2017	CA Pathways Project Selections Announced
June 2017	CA Pathways Project Institute #1

Planning Project Management

Bakersfield College will serve as the lead host for all planning activities in preparation for the launch of a statewide pathways project engaging multiple organizations. As such, BC is requesting financial support for faculty release time. These institutional faculty leaders will be responsible for convening the planning team multiple times throughout the next 8 months, as well as in maintaining communication with the research consultant developing the implementation grant. The lead faculty identified include:

Dr. Janet Fulks is an accomplished biology faculty member with over 23 years of experience in the California Community College system. Her tenure as a faculty member includes leadership as the Academic Senate President, a year of service as the Interim Dean of Pre-collegiate Studies & Student Success, as well as state-wide and national leadership on multiple measures and basic skills course acceleration.

Dr. Nick Strobel has been a professor of physical science and director of the planetarium at Bakersfield College for 20 years. He serves on the college Budget Committee, Curriculum Committee, Academic Senate, and authors a regular column for the Bakersfield Californian in addition to an internationally utilized online textbook on Astronomy. Strobel earned his MS and PhD in Astronomy from the University of Washington.

Dr. Sarah Baron serves as a professor in public health. As faculty, Baron developed the Associate Degree for Transfer for Public Health Sciences. She also brings over 20 years of

industry experience having worked in a number of sectors, including over a decade of professional grant development and writing experience.

Jessica Wojtysiak is a rising faculty leader at Bakersfield College who has quickly taken leadership in Academic Development. She earned her M.A. in English from CSU Bakersfield and completed a double major in English Literature and Chemistry at Cornell University.

Planning Grant Goals

- Develop a framework for 6 statewide institutes to promote clear, coherent pathways from each student's point of entry to completion of a postsecondary credential which is aligned to high quality employment
- Stimulate the expansion of Associate Degrees for Transfer to promote transfer success and institutional alignment between California community colleges and the California State University system
- Develop a statewide network of community college and intermediary organization leaders engaged in pathways work
- Strengthen California-based organizations through cross-sector collaboration

Data Collection & Evaluation

Bakersfield College will contract with the RP Group in the collection and analysis of pathways data to inform the development of a robust implementation grant. Dr. Darla Cooper, Director of Research and Evaluation, serves as a coach for the national Pathways Project, working with college leaders to develop capacity for pathways implementation at scale. Her expertise will provide invaluable at meetings in advance of the project launch.

Request for Support

To accomplish this work, Bakersfield College is requesting $104,000 from College Futures for the following planning activities:

$40,000	***Planning Team Convenings***: The California Pathways Planning team will meet in person twice during the planning period – in June 2016 and again in October 2016. Request includes funding support for hotel rooms, event space and equipment, air and ground travel, parking, supplies, and catering.
$54,000	***Faculty Coordination***: BC faculty leaders will be responsible for convening the planning team twice during the planning period, as well as for maintaining communication with the research consultant. Faculty leaders will move the work between planning meetings by capturing all notes, communicating back to partners, and ensuring consistency in planning. Request includes support for 0.2 faculty release time/term for 4 faculty.
$10,000	***Research Consultation/Evaluation***: BC will contract with a researcher to lead the evaluation of planning activities in line with major California initiatives. The researcher will attend all planning meetings. Request includes funding support for approximate $1,500/day site visit fee, plus a contract agreement to cover the implementation data collection.