

Student Success Centers IN ACTION



A Student Success Center is a statewide organization that supports community colleges' efforts to develop student-centered pathways and increase student completion rates. Fourteen Student Success Centers are part of the national Student Success Center Network.

Centers provide a range of supports to colleges in their states. Examples include:



STATEWIDE TAACCCT GRANTS

The Arkansas Student Success Center secured more than \$20 million in federal and private grants to support implementation of student innovations at Arkansas' 22 community colleges. The awards include a \$15 million Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, which provided funds for all community colleges to redesign developmental education instruction, improve student advising and tracking, and streamline select programs so students could earn credentials more quickly. Colleges credited the funds with "creating a culture of student success" and building a foundation for continuing institutional change to improve student outcomes.



AUTOMATIC TRANSFER AND JUNIOR STANDING

The Connecticut Student Success Center developed 22 transfer pathway degrees that can be completed at any of the state's 12 community colleges in 60 credits—and all lead to automatic transfer with junior standing at all regional universities. The final 60 credits at the universities are also mapped so students know exactly what is required to complete a bachelor's degree. In some cases, students who might have been declined admission to a university are offered the option of starting at a community college and being guaranteed admission and junior status upon completing a transfer pathway degree.



BLOCK TRANSFER AGREEMENT

The Michigan Center for Student Success led the charge for creating the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA). Under the MTA, which went into effect in fall 2014, students can transfer 30 credits of the general education requirements in a block to participating four-year institutions. The Center is now convening a committee of community college and university leaders to develop statewide agreements for transferring the full associate degree. These statewide policy conversations demonstrate how Centers connect policy and practice.



SCALING MATH PATHWAYS

The New York Student Success Center is helping its colleges scale the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's Quantway/Statway Math Pathways, which have been shown to accelerate students' progress through developmental math. This effort focuses on enrolling students in math courses that are connected to their programs of study and aligned with their career goals as well as supporting faculty trainings and professional development.



CONNECTING POLICY WITH PRACTICE

The Ohio Student Success Center is leveraging state policy to build momentum for implementing guided pathways. Ohio's community colleges have 100 percent outcomes-based funding, and the state requires colleges to submit completion plans with strategies to increase the number and percentage of students earning meaningful postsecondary credentials. The Center's efforts include a multiyear Student Success Leadership Institute that focuses on scaling guided pathways reforms at all colleges in the state.



BRINGING PATHWAYS TO SCALE

The Texas Success Center has launched the Texas Pathway Project, a statewide strategy to scale pathways at all colleges. The work is closely modeled on the guided pathways project led by the American Association of Community Colleges. The Center is supporting all 50 Texas community college districts' pathways efforts to help reach the state's completion goal: 60 percent of young Texans will have a credential by 2030.



SHARED LEARNING AND GRANT SUPPORT

The Washington Student Success Center hosts institutes that bring national pathways experts to every community college in the state. The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges—the Center's host organization—worked with College Spark Washington in its process of selecting the first five colleges to receive five-year grants to implement pathways. The Center, in turn, is bringing lessons learned at those five colleges to all other colleges in the state.