A Convening: Transfer Solutions through Cross-Organization Alignment

Higher Education Reform
In California

Presentation to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
March 24, 2014
Team Members

**Debra David** - Professor, Health Science/Gerontology, San Jose State University; Project Director, Give Students a Compass, California State University (CSU) Chancellor’s Office

**Steven Filling** - Professor, Accounting & Finance, CSU Stanislaus; Vice Chair, CSU Statewide Academic Senate

**Barry Pasternack** – Professor, Information Systems & Decision Sciences and Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, CSU Fullerton; Senator, CSU Statewide Academic Senate

**Paul Wickline** - Professor & Chair, Theatre, College of the Canyons; Vice Chair, College Academic Senate; representing the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges (CCC)
Transfer Initiatives in California

• **Give Students a Compass** – to infuse high-impact practices into the general education (GE) transfer curriculum; one pilot project is part of the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) Quality Collaboratives (QC) project

• **Associate Degrees for Transfer** – to facilitate transfer from CCCs to CSUs in 24 majors

• **Linked Learning Pathways to the Baccalaureate** - to develop seamless transfer pathways from high school to CCCs to CSUs in career and technical education fields

• **Also** – California is involved with the WICHE Interstate Passport Initiative and the AAC&U GE Maps & Markers project
Goal: Thematic GE Pathways

To offer students the opportunity to explore a major question or issue from an interdisciplinary perspectives in the context of their GE requirements, incorporating high impact practices.

The pathways are *relevant*, *engaging*, and *integrative*. 
At CSUN we offer you the possibility to make the most out of your General Education experience. Students enrolled in the GE Paths program explore a special theme or major question from an interdisciplinary perspective in the context of their general education requirements.

Current Paths:
- Aesthetics and Culture
- Arts, Media, and Society
- Global Studies
- Health and Wellness
- Social Justice
- Sustainability
MISSION
• Bringing together high impact practices through PATH classes.

LOGISTICS
• Take four classes at Pierce College in 1 PATH
• These course were identified as PATH courses in the schedule
• Take the last 2 Path classes at CSUN
• You may earn a minor in "Civic Engagement" after transferring to CSUN

THE PATHS
• Aesthetics and Culture Path
• Global Studies Path
• Health and Wellness Path
• Social Justice Path
• Sustainability Path

GE Paths - http://faculty/piercecollege.edu/gepaths
Common Elements:
- “Wicked Problems”/Big Questions
- Thematic Learning Outcomes
- Cornerstone to Capstone (planned)
- Faculty Coordination

Some Issues:
- Articulation/Transfer
- Faculty Development & Workload
- High-Impact Practices
- Assessment
- Integration with Major
Deliverables/Timeline

Planning: October, 2011 through Spring, 2012

Transfer-friendly GE pathways:
• 2012-2013: Sustainability, Social Justice, Global Studies

• 2013-2014: Health & Wellness, Aesthetics & Culture, (CSUN only) Arts, Media, & Society

Minor in Sustainability (existing) or Civic Engagement (2014-2015) if a student completes 6 courses in a pathway, including 2 at the upper division level.
Budget/Funding Source

Grant from the AAC&U Lumina-funded Quality Collaboratives project - $120,000 over 3 years (Fall 2011 to Fall 2014)

$40,000 each to CSUN, Pierce, and CSU Chancellor’s Office

At both campuses, full instructional costs are covered by the institution. At CSUN, the Provost has provided additional funding for faculty coordination, stipends, and other support (e.g., events, field trips, materials).
Current Status plus Scalability

At CSUN:
- In Spring, 2014 – 59 courses in 6 pathways
- An estimated 6000 students have taken a pathway course; approximately 10% have “declared” a path

At Pierce:
- In Spring, 2014 – 54 courses in 5 pathways
- An estimated 2000 students have taken a pathway course

Scalability:
- CSUN has invited other local CCCs and CSUs to develop compatible pathways
- Both campuses expect to continue expansion
Sustainability

Both campuses are committed to institutionalizing the GE pathways.

CSUN has allocated permanent (“base”) funding for program administration and support.

Future funding (beyond instructional costs) at Pierce is uncertain at this time.
Partners & Institution Depth

Current partners: CSUN & Pierce

Local expansion to other CCC “feeder” campuses for CSUN actively solicited

High interest: More than 100 participants from at least 14 other CSUs and 10 other CCCs sent people to a March 14 mini-conference; most sent teams.

In progress: Regional expansion to CSU Channel Islands, Oxnard College, and Ventura College.

Under discussion: Statewide GE thematic pathways leading to minors.