

# Guided Pathways & Learning Communities

How hearing student voice changed the way we work

Workshop 10.09.20



CLP

Career  
Ladders  
Project

# The Team



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# About CLP

Career Ladders Project promotes equity-minded community college redesign.

We collaborate with colleges and their partners to discover, develop, and disseminate effective practices. Our policy work, research, and direct efforts with colleges lead to system change—and enable more students to attain certificates, degrees, transfers, and career advancement.



# Research Question

“Are there successful strategies in Learning Communities for meeting student needs that may inform a Guided Pathways framework?”





# Focus Group Protocol

- Modified but based on *Bringing Student Voice to Guided Pathways Inquiry and Design*
- Categories of the Questions:
  - Choosing a major
  - Choosing classes
  - Dropping or stopping out
  - Colleges supporting students
  - Helpful people





# Let's Code!

- Sample transcripts – already coded
- Sample transcripts for us to code
- Instructions in the document
  - Read through the transcripts once to get a feel for it.
  - What themes do you see?
  - Take another pass and highlight for different themes





# Findings from Focus Group

Guesses? Hypotheses?



# Findings - All Students

1. See college as a way to better life/career
2. Consider personal and academic interest in choosing a major - but family and giving back to the community also important
3. Work-based learning (internships, experience) would be most helpful in choosing a major
4. Peers drop/stop out due to financial and emotional issues
5. Information from peers is vital in choosing classes



# Findings – Learning Community Students

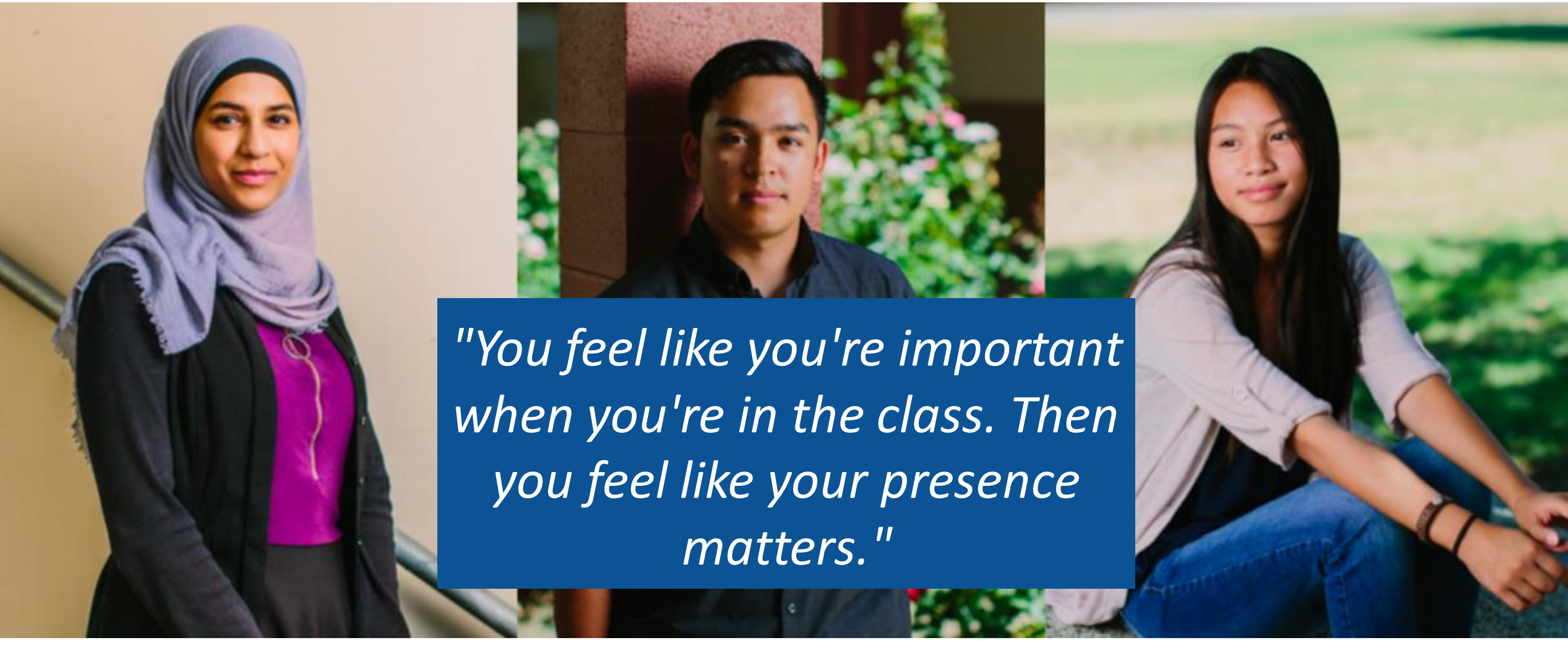
1. Reported having a support system and a stronger sense of belonging
2. Decide on a major sooner (1st semester vs 1-1.5 years)
3. Rely more on college supports when making educational decisions (counselor, instructor, support staff)
4. Reported more positive counseling experiences
5. Easier experience enrolling in classes





# Thank You

For all you do for students

The image features three diverse students. On the left, a woman wearing a grey hijab and a black cardigan over a purple top. In the center, a man with dark hair wearing a dark blue button-down shirt, standing in front of a brick pillar. On the right, a woman with long dark hair wearing a light-colored cardigan and blue jeans, sitting outdoors with greenery in the background. A blue text box is overlaid on the bottom center of the image.

*"You feel like you're important  
when you're in the class. Then  
you feel like your presence  
matters."*