



# Counseling and Guided Pathways

Remembering that Guided Pathways is about Guiding Students

October 14, 2021 | 1:30 - 2:30 pm

## Speakers

Luis Chavez, Career Ladders Project

Tiffany Welter, Los Medanos College

Nickolas Lucio, Fresno City College

Lorraine DeMello, Skyline College



# Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Opening comments
- Dr. Welter's Research talk
- Panel Response
- Q&A
- Closing



# CLP Team

# Speaker



**Luis Chavez**  
Senior Director  
Career Ladders Project

**Valeria Torres**  
Program Coordinator  
Career Ladders Project

**Eder Flores**  
Program Associate  
Career Ladders Project

**Tiffany Welter**  
Counselor  
Los Medanos College



## 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.



# Counseling and Guided Pathways

Remembering that Guided Pathways is about Guiding Students



# Framing the GP Counselor Discussion

- Guided Pathway elements from the california community college counselor perspective
- Personal Background and experience
  - Counselor
  - Social Worker
  - Consultant





# Literature Review

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Themes from literature review:

1. Majors divided into “meta-majors”
2. Mandatory, intensive counseling
3. The use of cohort models
4. Leveraging technology
5. Creating success teams to monitor student progress.



# Purpose and Research Questions

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The purpose of this qualitative multi case study is to:

- Describe what California community college counselors describe as the most important elements of guided pathways that increase student success.
- Additionally, this study will explore how counselors describe the challenges of guided pathways.
- Lastly, this study identified counselor recommendations for improving guided pathways to increase student success.

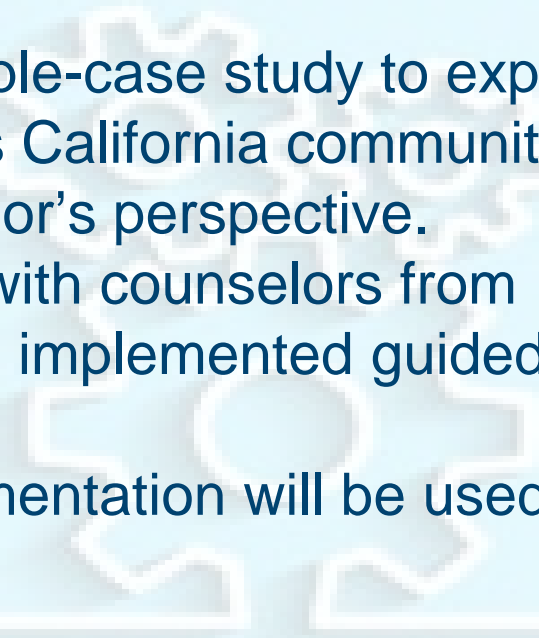




# Methodology

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- This qualitative case study used a multiple-case study to explore what important guided pathway features California community colleges offer students from the counselor's perspective.
- Semi-structured interviews will be held with counselors from California community colleges that have implemented guided pathways on their campuses.
- Additionally, archival records and documentation will be used to triangulate the data





# Population

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## Target population:

**12** counselors from **six** California community colleges that have implemented guided pathways in their colleges for **two or more** years.





# Sample

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- 12 counselors from California community colleges that implemented guided pathways at their colleges for two or more years.
- Colleges: Skyline College, Chaffey College, Modesto College, Fresno City College, West Hills Lemoore College and Cabrillo College.
- Two counselors from each institution: one male and one female, a range of ages and racial and ethnic affiliations. Counselors selected were considered:
  - General counselors
  - Full time status
  - Had been employed with the college for two or more years



# Research Questions

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# Guided Pathways Definition

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The participants defined guided pathways as a “reform” or “redesign” of their college that provides structured “guidance,” “roadmaps” and/or “student supports” to help “streamline” the path for students to “completion.”

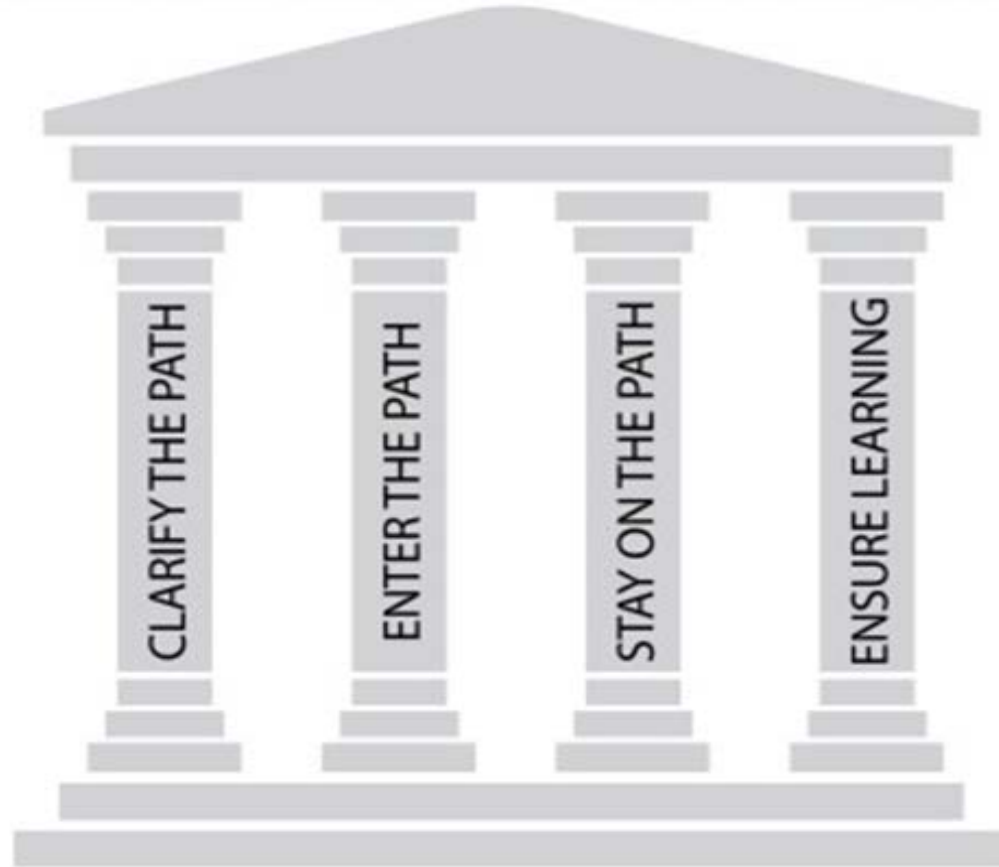


# Important Elements of Guided Pathways

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1. Provide student supports or wraparound services
2. Have strong communication with students
3. Provide specialized or embedded counseling
4. Offer communities
5. Offer clear options
6. Use a student-centered approach

## FOUR PILLARS OF GUIDED PATHWAYS





# Pillar 1: Clarify the Path

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Four primary themes:

1. Provide high school outreach and assist with early decision-making
2. Use a career focus
3. Provide program maps
4. Create meta majors





## Pillar 2: Enter the Path

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Three major themes:

1. Importance of counselors
2. Have strong faculty engagement
3. Provide accessible resources



# Pillar 3: Stay on the Path

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Five major themes:

1. Importance of counselors
2. Provide accessible resources
3. Utilize an early-alert system
4. Identify student milestones
5. Have a case-management approach



# Pillar 4: Ensure Students are Learning

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Four major themes:

1. Importance of counselors
2. Provide accessible resources
3. Gather student feedback
4. Use student-learning outcomes(SLOs)



# Challenges of Guided Pathways

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Three major themes are:

1. Lack of administrative support
2. Getting started with the process
3. Misconceptions or outdated beliefs



# Recommendations

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Three themes identified:

1. Have strong communication
2. Involve all staff
3. Show the data



# Conclusions

1. Colleges Should Have Strong Student Support or Wraparound Services
2. Colleges Should Have Strong Communication with Students
3. Colleges Should Offer Specialized or Embedded Counseling
4. High School Outreach Is Critical
5. Colleges Should Have a Strong Career Focus
6. Colleges Should Have Strong Faculty Engagement
7. Colleges Should Have Strong Leadership



# Recommended Actions

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1. Improve Counseling
2. Invest in High School Outreach
3. Offer Strong Student Support Services



# Response Panelist

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Nickolas Lucio  
Counselor  
Fresno City College



Lorraine DeMello  
Counselor  
Skyline College





# Q&A



Use chat to ask questions.  
Please specify who your question is for.



# Feedback

Use the link in the chat

OR

Visit [www.Menti.com](https://www.Menti.com) on any device

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