

Institutional Transformation Through Guided Pathways at Rural Community Colleges

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Why are we talking about rural community colleges and guided pathways?

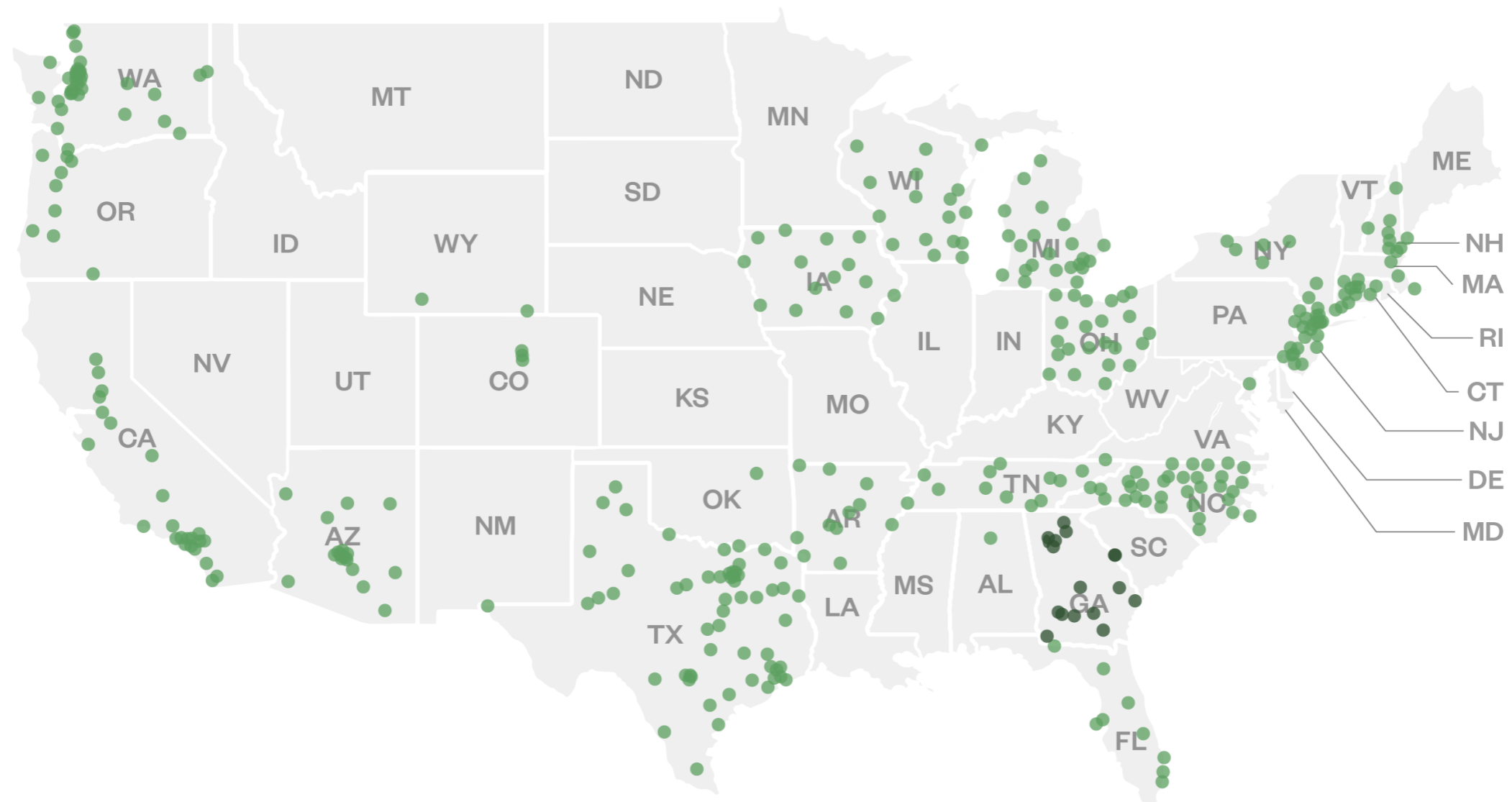
Community colleges are the primary source of postsecondary education in rural communities.

Public community and technical colleges represent **218** of the 381 rural postsecondary institutions identified by the U.S. Dept. of Education.

These colleges serve **78%** of the 1.1 million undergraduates attending rural postsecondary institutions.

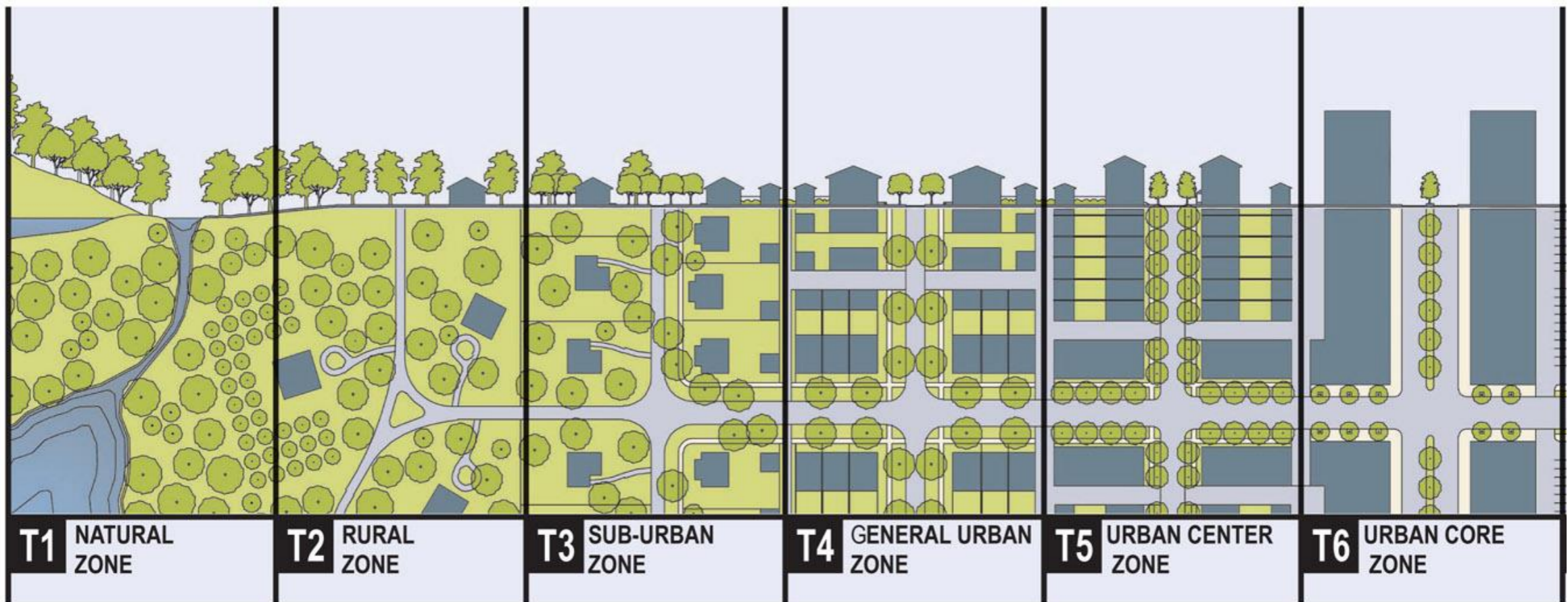
A National Reform Movement

Colleges in National and State Guided Pathways Initiatives



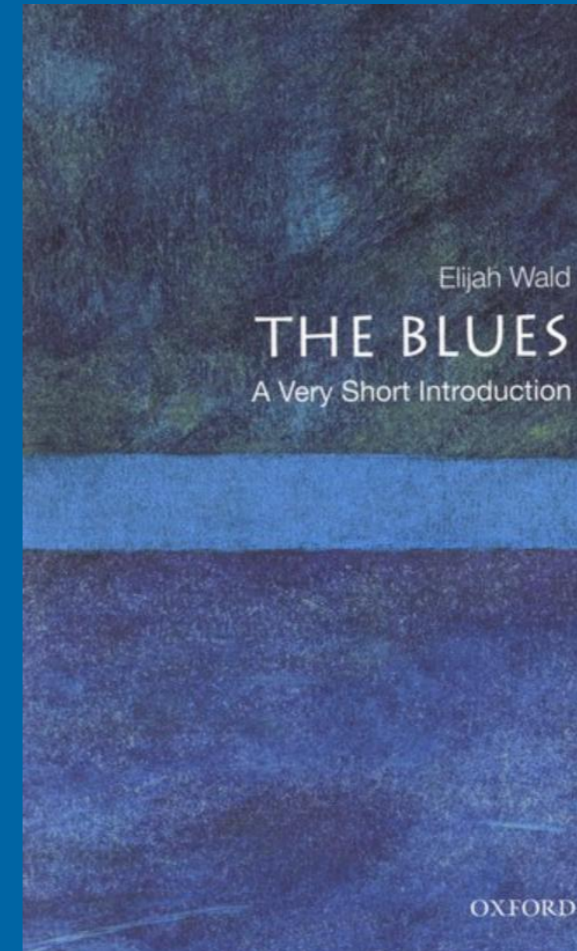
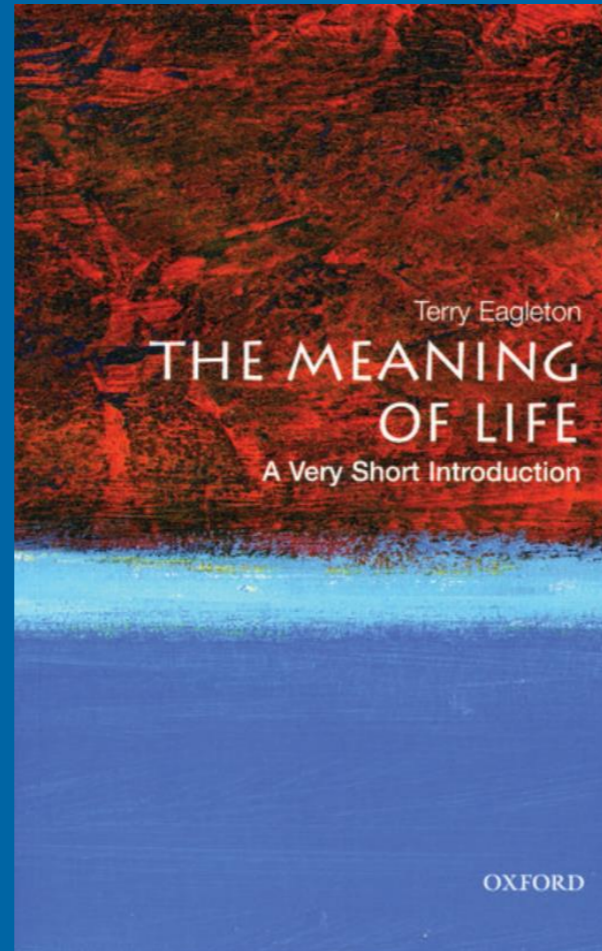
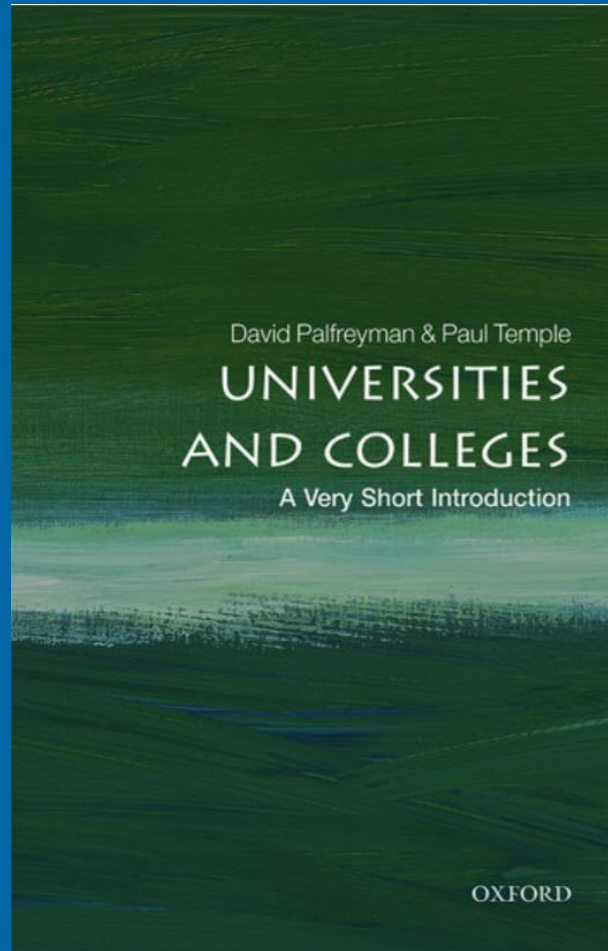
- Community colleges implementing guided pathways as part of formal state or national initiatives
- Four-year colleges implementing pathways practices as part of state initiatives

Which most closely reflects your college's service area?



RURAL

URBAN



Guided Pathways: A Very, Very Short Introduction

New CC Business Environment

- State funding cuts → Students/families pay more
- Performance funding
- Tight labor markets in many parts of the country
- Traditional high school population declining
- Dev ed enrollments tanking; dual enrollment soaring
- Declining returns to skills training only; growing demand for degrees + demonstrated learning + experience
- CC → bachelor's transfer highly inefficient
- Increased competition (public 4-year, private, online, for-profit)

Guided Pathways Defined

Guided pathways is a whole-college redesign process intended to advance social and economic mobility, workforce development, and equity through three main activities:

- 1) Ensure that every program prepares students for good jobs and further education
- 2) Help all students (especially historically marginalized) actively explore options and interests, become part of an academic and career community, and plan and complete their programs efficiently and affordably
- 3) Work with area employers, universities, K-12 schools, and community groups to build cross-sectoral education pathways to careers in fields of economic importance to the region.

Guided Pathways Design Objectives

1 Map paths to student end goals

- Meta-majors
- Program maps
- Career + transfer information
- Math pathways

2 Help students get on a path

- Early career/transfer exploration
- Academic and financial plan
- Integrated & contextualized academic support

3 Keep students on path

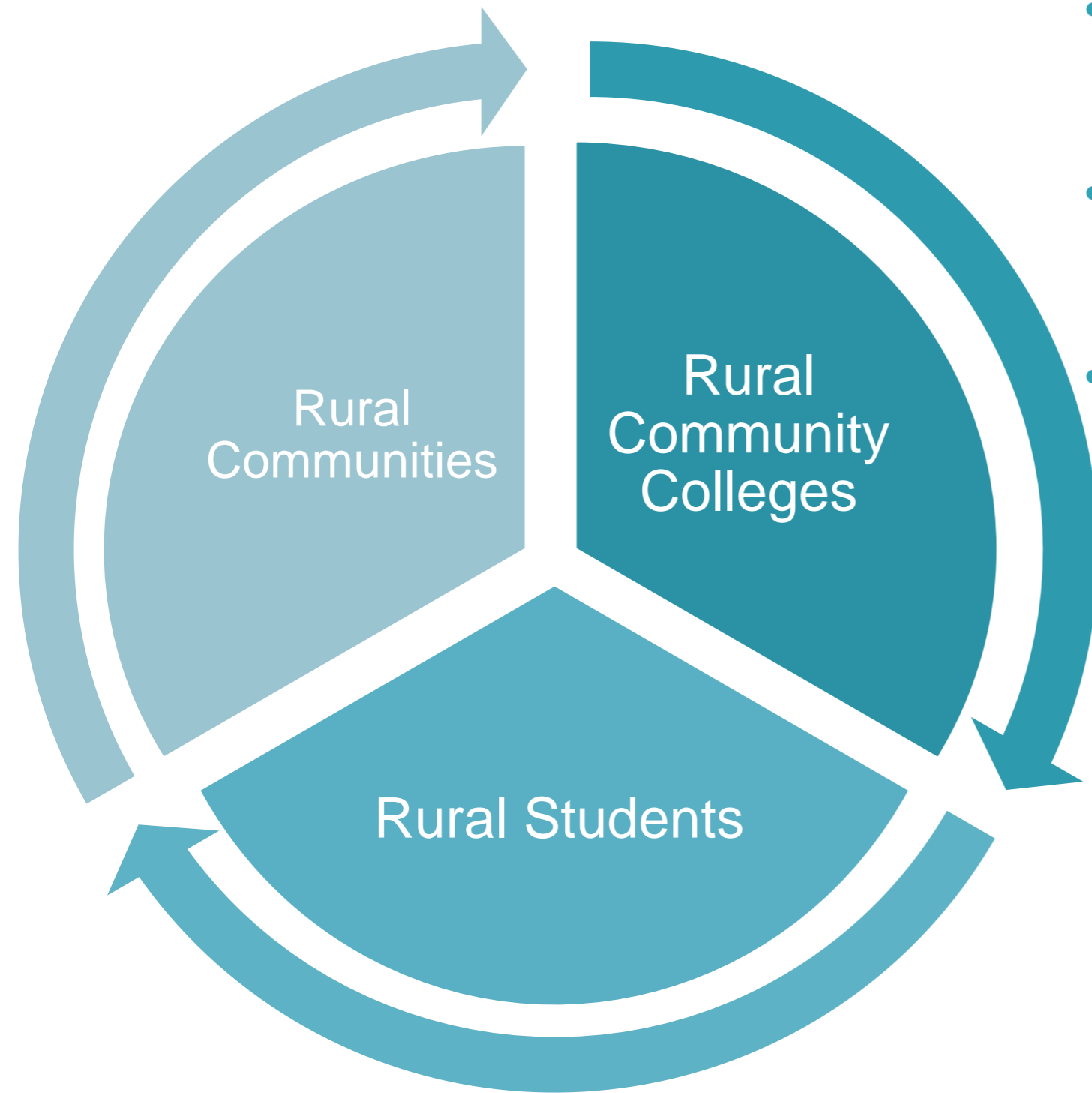
- Monitoring progress on plan
- Intrusive support
- Predictable scheduling

4 Ensure students are learning

- Field-specific learning outcomes
- Active, field-relevant experiential learning throughout

What We Are Learning About Guided Pathways in Rural---

What We Would Like to Better Understand About Guided Pathways in Rural Community Colleges



- What barriers do they face?
- What resources do they possess?
- How are colleges (1) preparing students for good jobs & further education; (2) helping students explore interests, develop plans, and complete programs; and (3) creating cross-sectoral education pathways to regional careers?

Rural Communities: A few commonalities

- **Geography:** vast space between people, far from large urban center, more limited access to high-speed internet.
- **Socioeconomic conditions:**
 - Declining population results in higher tax burden → hard for local governments & schools to maintain programs → hard to respond to changing economy & workforce.
 - Higher high school graduation rates and lower postsecondary attainment.
 - Adults are less likely to be employed.
 - Rural and urban communities are highly interdependent.
- **Values:** self reliance, pride in local community, know one's neighbors.

Researchers and journalists are investigating the rural higher education landscape.

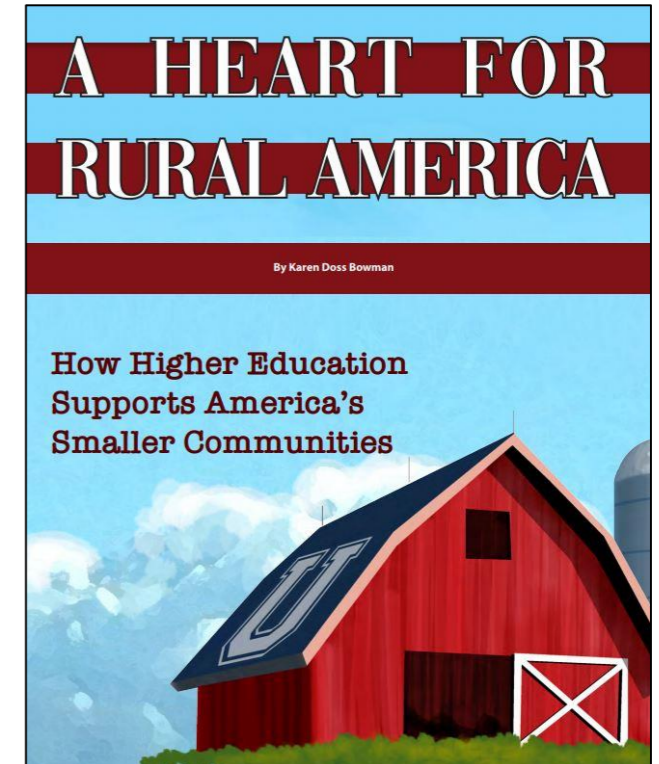
ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE IN PRACTICE

Partnerships for Prosperity: Critical Challenges and the Community College Role in Rural Communities in 2020 and Beyond

Sherry Zylka, EdD

President and CEO
Big Sandy Community and Technical College
Prestonburg, Kentucky

is not just the community college; we seek to be a part of the solution. The students in the workforce ecosystem who we educate and train will sustain the employment needs of existing businesses now and as they expand in the future.



Bumps in the Road for Rural Students

Rural community colleges grapple with nonacademic barriers that hinder their students from staying and completing.



A big reason rural students never go to college: Colleges don't recruit them

College recruiters who flock to suburban high schools seldom visit rural ones

Helping Students with **Major Decisions** on their Program Paths: What do rural students need?

CONNECTION

From interest and application to first enrollment



ENTRY

From entry to program choice and entry



PROGRESS / COMPLETION

From program entry to completion of program requirements



ADVANCEMENT

From completion of credential to career advancement and further education

- What careers would be a good fit for me?
- What jobs can I get with a degree from your college?
- How much will it cost, and how will I pay?

- Who can I talk to about my career and program options?
- What program is a good fit for me?
- What will I need to take?
- Will my credits transfer?
- How much will it cost, and how will I pay?

- How do I balance my other obligations?
- What if I'm struggling academically?
- What if I want to change majors?
- How do I get relevant work experience?
- How do I apply to transfer?
- How much time and money until I finish?

- How do I get a job in a field related to my program?
- What further education and training will help me advance in my career?
- How do I transfer successfully?
- How much will it cost and how will I pay for it?

Connecting Students to Programs & Careers at Linn-Benton Community College

- www.linnbenton.edu

The screenshot shows the top portion of the Linn-Benton Community College website. At the top is a navigation bar with links for Campus Map, Calendar, Email, Programs of Study, Contact Us, Información para Padres, and Quick Links. Below this is the college's logo, which features a stylized bird icon and the text "Linn-Benton Community College". To the right of the logo is the Moodle WebRunner logo and a search box with the word "Search" inside. A dark navigation bar below the logo contains five categories: Future Students, Current Students, Community & Continuing Education, Friends & Alumni, and Faculty & Staff. The main content area features a large banner image of three people (a man and two women) smiling. A blue overlay on the left side of the banner contains the text "Widen the Road to Student Success" and "President Hamann issues a challenge to reach 1,000 donors for the LBCC Foundation", with a "Read More >" button below it. Navigation arrows are visible on the left and right sides of the banner image.

Integrating Guided Pathways at Motlow State Community College

Support & Guidance in the 1st Year



➤ *Mapping the pathway from the beginning*

- ✓ Restructured New Student Orientation that provide personalized advisement to every student before registration

➤ *Year One*

- ✓ Mapping educational programs to ensure students understand educational paths toward their goals
 - Every program has Recommended Schedules for completion; these course maps have been outlined for both full-time and part-time students.
 - Within the first year, each Recommended Schedule integrates 9 credit hours of courses in the a given area of emphasis.
- ✓ Co-requisite learning models allows students with learning support needs to complete gateway courses, such as ENGL 1010, on time.
- ✓ A First Year Experience course is required of all students with learning support requirements.
 - This course provides academic and financial planning modules to all students enrolled in MSCC 1300.

Utilizing Advisement and Learning to Support Students' Pathways to Success

➤ *Advising*

- ✓ Individualized Student Plans
 - Each student meets with an advisor to identify an individualized course plan to support degree/certificate completion.
- ✓ Intrusive Advising
 - Early Alert System
 - Two-Tiered Advisement Plan using Completion Coaches & Faculty

➤ *Learning*

- ✓ Field-Specific Learning Outcomes
 - Example: Cyber Defense learning outcomes align with industry certifications.
- ✓ Active Learning
 - Collaborative projects, project-based learning, concept maps for critical thinking

Connecting the Pieces

- *Degree Attainment for Transfer*
 - ✓ Ensuring rich learning and academic exploration opportunities in preparation for transfer to the universities
 - Service learning
 - Co-curricular activities to enhance learning experiences (e.g. conferences, seminars, transfer workshops)
- *Skill Development for Job Placement*
 - ✓ Integrating professional skills into curriculum for job placement
 - Cyber Defense – Industry certifications into the curriculum
 - Mechatronics – Hands-on automation training & Siemens certification preparation
 - Nursing – Core Competencies for NCLEX-RN
- *Job Placement Rates*

Mechatronics Certificate	Mechatronics AAS	Nursing AAS	Cyber Defense AAS
92%	88%	95%	???

Written Riffin'


1. Write at least one of the following:
 - a. A challenge your college faces in ensuring that program offerings prepare rural students for good jobs and further education,
 - b. A challenge in helping rural students actively explore options and interests, become part of an academic and career opportunity, and plan and complete their programs efficiently and affordably,
 - c. A challenge in working with area employers, universities, K-12 schools, and community groups to build cross-sectoral education pathways to careers in fields of economic importance to your rural community, OR
 - d. A challenge your rural community college faces in implementing guided pathways.

2. Pass your paper to the person on your left. On the paper you receive, write a comment, idea, or question in response.
3. Continue passing and responding until the paper returns to its original author. What do the responses lead you to consider or do next?

Thank you!

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