Mini Literature Review

Implementing Guided Pathways—Findings from AACC Colleges

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Purpose: Summary of Key Issues in Guided Pathways
Methodology: Review of Published Literature

This Research Brief provides an overview of trends and findings, based on lessons learned at 30 nationwide colleges that have recently implemented pathways programs. For further information, see
http://mjc.edu/general/research/literatureguidedpathways.pdf

Essential Components of Pathways Planning

(1) Mapping pathways to student end goals
(2) Helping students choose and enter a program pathway
(3) Keeping students on the path
(4) Ensuring that students are learning

Key Challenges

(1) Colleges are trying to find a balance between providing too much and too little choice for students
(2) Colleges should help every student develop a program plan and a clear career pathway in the first term
(3) Colleges need to redesign advising practices to better support student progression into and through programs
(4) Colleges need to take steps to help students complete their programs more quickly

Managing the Change Process at Pathways Colleges

(1) Creating a climate for change: Colleges need to cultivate cultures of openness to change and innovation
(2) Colleges should emphasize building and strengthening their capacity to analyze, report and use data
(3) Colleges must have a strategic plan with clear, measurable goals for improving student outcomes
(4) Engaging the whole organization: Colleges address the fear and anxiety that inevitably comes with changes
(5) Pathways colleges need to invest in professional development that directly supports pathways implementation

References

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