

Invitation for Faculty Involvement in Suffolk's Guided Pathways Project

Suffolk County Community College is engaged in the SUNY Guided Pathways Project, as part of the State University of New York Student Success Center Community of Practice, a statewide strategy focused on building capacity for community colleges to design and implement structured academic and career pathways at scale, in order to promote student retention and success.

The College was selected as one of the first community college cohort teams, who will participate in six institutes, that will serve as the anchor for professional development training and curriculum resources aligned to the American Association of Community Colleges Pathways Project.

The SUNY Guided Pathway model is an integrated, system-wide approach to student success based on intentionally designed, clear, coherent and structured educational experiences, informed by available evidence, that guide each student effectively and efficiently from high school to postsecondary entry through to attainment of high-quality credentials at two and four-year institutions and careers with value in the labor market.

The overall goal, implemented as appropriately in reflecting the College culture and with collaborative input from all areas of our institution, is for Suffolk to have a guided pathways "system" available for new students registering in fall 2019. **Much of the framework we are currently employing, and much will need to be developed.** Some of the goals have been achieved in specific cohorts, and perhaps should be applied college-wide as to meet the needs of the college community. Some of the overall goals include:

- Clearly specified further education and employment goals for our programs.
- A full-program map with a semester-by-semester sequence of courses to complete the program.
- Exploratory or "meta-majors" to help entering students choose a program of study, identification of critical courses, and other milestones students are expected to attain in each semester.
- Requirements for success in further education and employment, with necessary assessment strategies in place for all programs.
- Policies for intentional advising at intake to assist students in selecting a personalized academic path/program or emphasis of study.
- Policies to provide timely feedback to students when they meet benchmarks or get "off track" in their selected academic path/program or emphasis of study.

The Program will encompass six institutes, each designed to focus on an important aspect of institutional change, and pathway design and implementation; each will require advance work by Suffolk, and will result in products developed by the participating team members, including action plans. The institute format will combine discussions with experts, technical assistance, and facilitated discussion and planning sessions. A core Suffolk team will attend each institute, and others may be invited to attend dependent upon topic and team member strengths.

The College encourages faculty members to be involved as we embark upon this process. Cross-campus and cross-discipline faculty representation on the program facilitation team is preferable. All faculty are welcome to be involved on the program resource team. Governance representation on the program facilitation team would ideally be someone with an interest in curriculum, and willing to work with a collaborative group of leaders from both academic and student affairs. They may occasionally attend meetings around the state on training in and appreciation of the guided pathways approach to advisement with a goal of increasing student retention and successful degree completion. Background in developmental education would be helpful and a commitment of service for two years to see the exploratory process through would be most beneficial.

We are seeking involvement. If this is something you may be interested in, or would like additional information on what this commitment would entail, kindly e-mail Deborah Wolfson, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, SUNY Guided Pathway Project Lead: wolfsod@sunysuffolk.edu.