



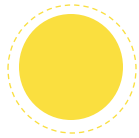
Believe in Your Students.
Believe in Yourselves.

Rural Pathways Project Institute #2 Preview

October 6, 2025



Agenda



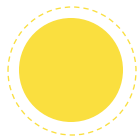
Welcome



Brief Project Overview



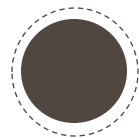
Institute #2 Prep & Agenda



***More Essential Than Ever* Book Club**



Communications Community of Practice



Next Steps and Questions



Project Overview

Rural Pathways Project Overview

This is a three-year project (starting in February 2025) with a national cohort of 28 rural community colleges who will work with each other — and with community partners in their regions — to implement pathways to economic prosperity. The goals of the project are to support participating colleges as they:

- 1. Design and implement a better student experience at their colleges.**
- 2. Collaborate with key local stakeholders to increase economic opportunity and partner on a cross-sector approach to implement guided pathways.**
- 3. Adopt evidence-based reforms that will address inequities and lead to improved educational and workforce outcomes.**

<https://ruralguidedpathways.org/>

Funders & Partners



Project Technical Assistance and Support

Institutes

Six 2 ½ day institutes. Participating colleges will send an 8-person team to each institute.

Leadership Curriculum

College senior teams will participate in six workshops (2 in-person & 4 virtual) led by Aspen on key capacities.

Virtual Consultancies

Each college team will be invited to two virtual consultancies during the project.



Coaches

Colleges will have an assigned implementation coach & leadership coach.

Site Visits & Office Hours

Colleges will have one site visit from its implementation coach per year and two virtual office hours per semester

Topical Webinars

NCII and its partners will develop and host throughout the project.

Rural Pathways Institutes & Curriculum





Institute #2

Prep & Agenda

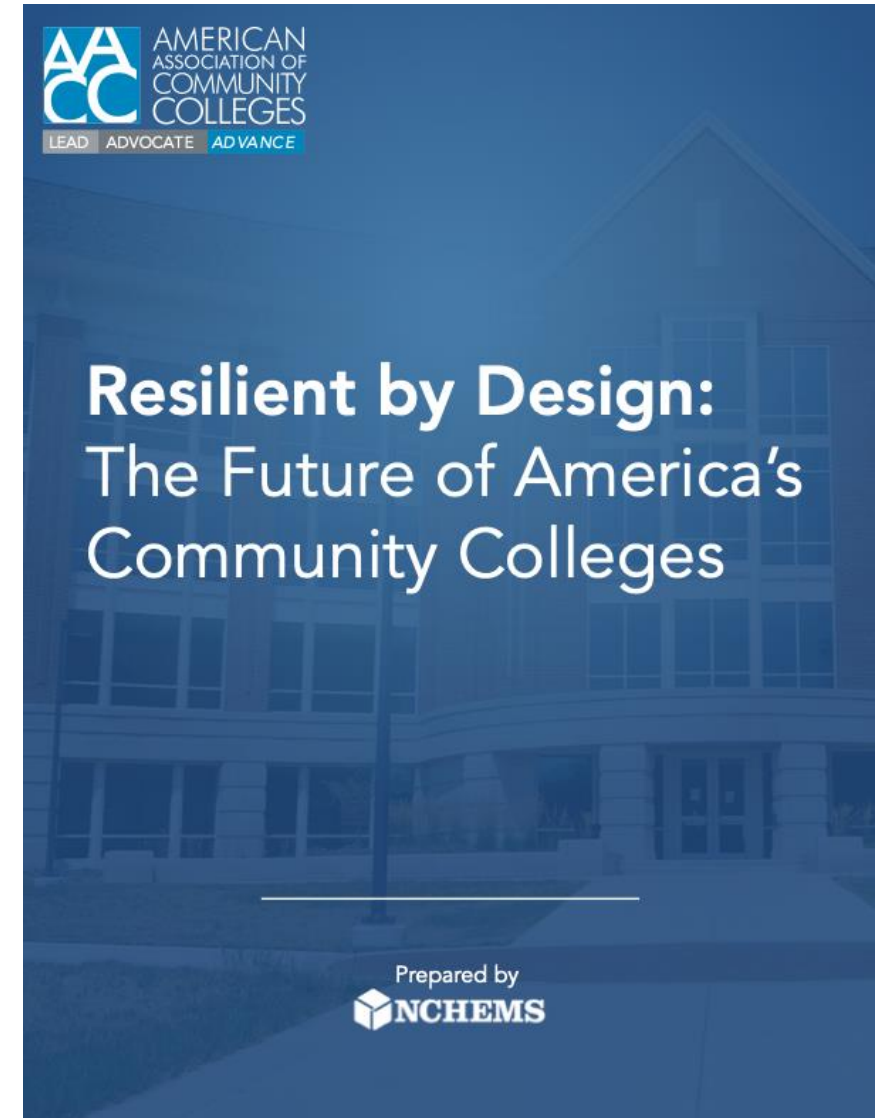
Preparation for the October Institute

- **Colleges must submit their project goals to Sarah Cale (sarah@ncii-improve.com) by Friday, October 17th.**
- **On Monday, October 27th, the leads will receive a Dropbox link with:**
 - **Institute #2 final agenda**
 - **Institute #2 team time documents**
 - **CCRC's analysis of your college's program data**
- **College leads should review these documents, share them with your team, but NOT start working on the team time documents prior to the Institute.**
- **College leads should receive hotel room confirmations for teams the week of October 20th from Sarah Cale.**

Preparation for the October Institute - Continued

- This report was prepared by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) on behalf of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Board of Directors.
- The report can be found on AACC's website:

<https://www.aacc.nche.edu/about-us/governance/resilient-by-design/>
- Brian Prescott, President of NCHEMS will present on the report in Louisville.



Institute # 2 Agenda - Purpose, Planning and Program Alignment – Keys to Successful Student Outcomes

Day 1 – October 29th

- › 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Orientation for Coaches, Partners, & NCII
- › 12:30 – 1:30 pm College Team Leads/Coach Prep Meeting
- › 1:30 – 2:00 pm Institute Check-in
- › 2:00 – 2:15 pm Welcome and Institute Overview
- › 2:15 – 3:15 pm National Community College Landscape Scan
- › 3:15 – 3:30 pm Table Discussion (15 mins...followed by 15 mins transition to Workshops)
- › 3:45 – 4:45 pm Round 1 Cross-College Workshops (followed by 15 mins transition to Team Time #1)
(Topics: Program enrollment and completion; program alignment to regional labor market; purpose and planning; and leveraging non-credit/continuing ed/ABE)
- › 5:00 – 6:00 pm Team Time #1 (based on Round 1 Workshop topic)
- › 6:00 – 7:00 pm Opening Reception
- › 7:00 pm Dinner on your own

Institute # 2 Agenda - Purpose, Planning and Program Alignment – Keys to Successful Student Outcomes

Day 2 – October 30th

- › 8:00 – 8:45 am Breakfast
- › 8:45 – 9:45 am Lessons Learned and Promising Practices from Unlocking Opportunity
- › 9:45 – 10:00 am Table Discussion (followed by 15 mins transition to Workshops)
- › 10:15 – 11:15 am Round 2 Cross-College Workshops (followed by 15 mins transition to Team Time #2)
- › 11:30 am – 12:30 pm Team Time #2 - based on Round 2 Workshop topic
- › 12:30 – 1:30 pm Lunch
- › 1:30 – 2:30 pm Round 3 Cross-College Workshops (followed by 15 mins transition to Team Time #3)
- › 2:45 – 3:45 pm Team Time #3 - based on Round 3 Workshop topic
- › 3:45 – 4:00 pm Transition to Main Room
- › 4:00 – 5:00 pm Strategies for Structuring Implementation and Improvement
- › 5:00 pm Dinner on your own

Institute # 2 Agenda - Purpose, Planning and Program Alignment – Keys to Successful Student Outcomes

Day 3 – October 31st

- › 7:30 – 8:30 am Breakfast (Concurrent with CEO-only breakfast)
- › 8:30 – 9:15 am Community College Approaches to Economic Development
- › 9:15 – 9:30 am Transition to Cross College Workshops
- › 9:30 – 10:30 am Round 4 Cross-College Workshops
- › 10:30 – 10:45 am Break and Transition to Team Time #4
- › 10:45 – 11:45 am Team Time #4 - based on Round 4 Workshop topic
- › 11:45 am Transition to Main Room
- › 11:45 am - 12:00 pm Closing Thoughts, Next Steps and Evaluation

Workshop Groups by Implementation Coach



01

**Ann, Keisha, Melinda
Victor**



02

**Chris, Elizabeth,
Laura, Rob**



03

Ed, Joyce, Stephanie



04

**Adrienne, Hana,
Octavia**

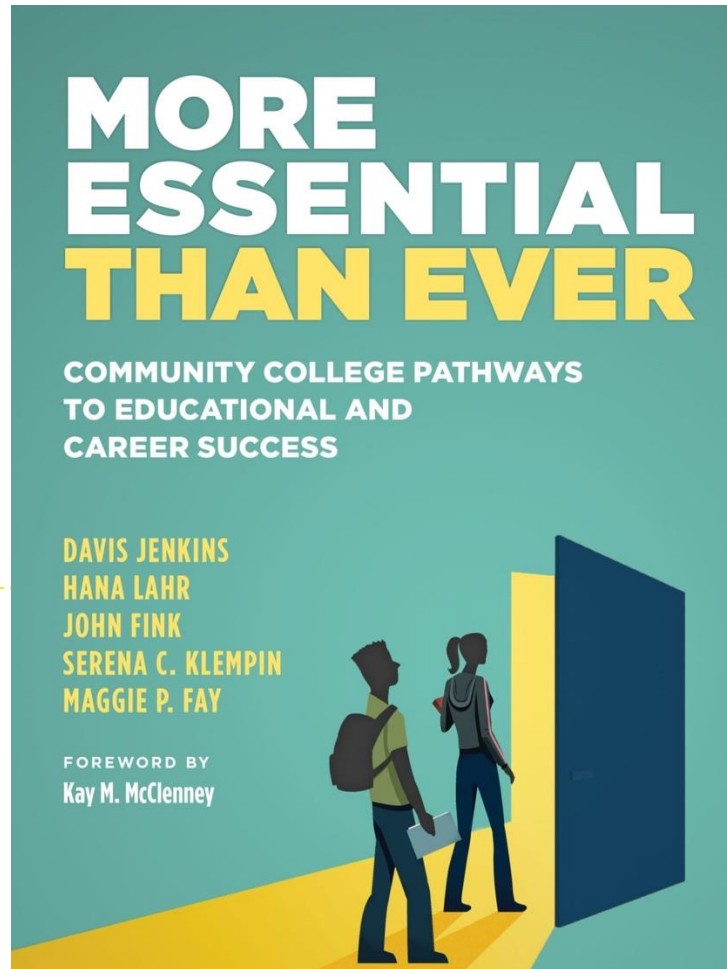
More Essential Than Ever Book Club



More Essential Than Ever Book Club

Shared Learning Opportunities

- Join Rural Pathways peers
- › NCII will lead five 1-hour sessions on the key book chapters with an overview and breakout discussions.
- Create a book club on campus
- › Using the resources on the right, college teams can establish a book club about CCRC's book on campus.
- Join a book clubs in your state
- › Several states represented in this project have created a sustained conversation around CCRC's new book.



Each college will receive 2 copies of the book from NCII

- › You can purchase additional copies from either Harvard Education Press or on Amazon.

CCRC Discussion Guide



CCRC Blog Series

Support Resources

Supporting Communications Efforts on Campus



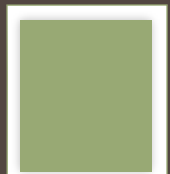
Communications Community of Practice



Activities between Institutes #2 and #3

NCII will send a “Next Steps” memo outlining the following items:

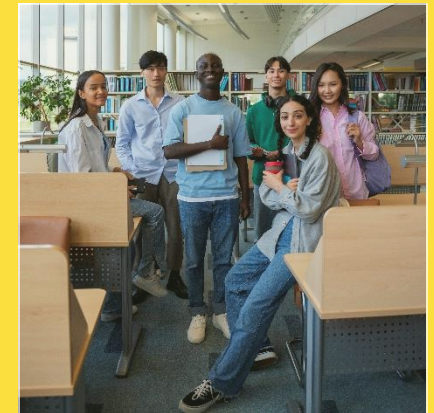
- › Institute #2 Team Time docs will be due December 15th to Sarah Cale
- › Provide more information about the *More Essential Than Ever* Book Club
- › Share more details about the Communications Community of Practice
- › Expectations for college team composition for Institute #3:
 - College team members: College CEO, project lead, and 2 staff members with responsibilities for K-12 partnerships
 - K-12 Partner team members: 4 individuals from K-12 including a mix of superintendents, principals, and other key players
- › Institute Preview Webinar – February 19th 3:00-4:30pm ET
- › Next Aspen Leadership Workshop for College Senior Teams
 - Two sessions on Friday, February 6th (9:00-11:30am ET and 1:00-3:30pm ET)
- › K-12 Partner Orientation Webinars
 - Two sessions on Monday, February 9th (3:30-4:30pm ET and 7:30-8:30pm ET)



Any Questions



Contact



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- chris@ncii-improve.com