



Believe in Your Students.
Believe in Yourselves.

Rural Pathways Project Institute #3 Preview

February 19, 2026



Agenda



Welcome



Brief Project Overview



Institute #3 Prep & Agenda



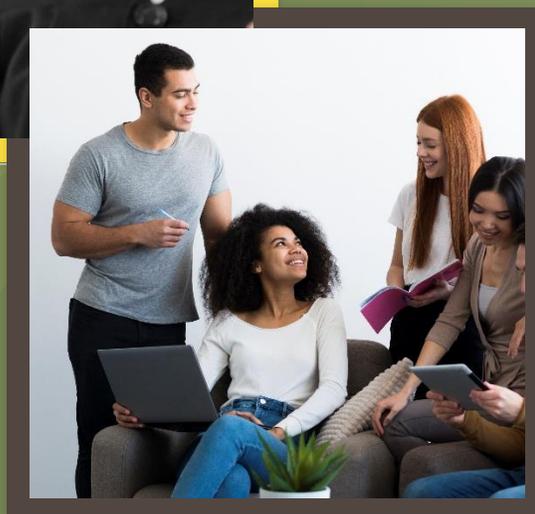
***More Essential Than Ever* Book Club**



Dual Enrollment Equity Pathways (DEEP): An Overview



Questions, Reminders and Next Steps



Project Overview

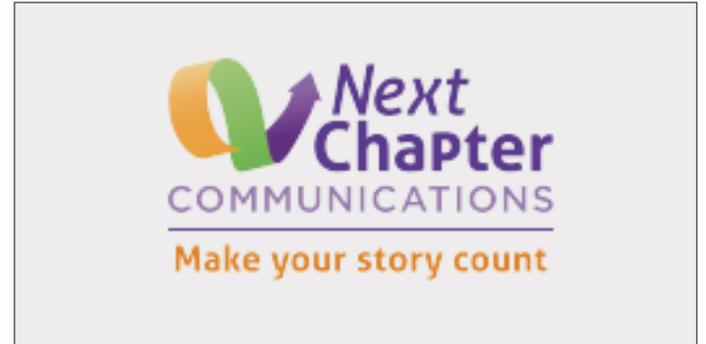
Rural Pathways Project (2025-2028)

This is a three-year project 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



Rural Guided Pathways Project Colleges

28 Colleges across 16 states serving over 95,000 students

- › Bay de Noc Community College (MI)
- › Central Carolina Community College (NC)
- › Central Texas College (TX)
- › Colorado Mountain College (CO)
- › Columbia Gorge Community College (OR)
- › Davidson-Davie Community College (NC)
- › Edison State Community College (OH)
- › Grays Harbor College (WA)
- › John Wood Community College (IL)
- › Kilgore College (TX)
- › Linn-Benton Community College (OR)
- › Marion Technical College (OH)
- › Missoula College (MT)
- › McLennan Community College (TX)
- › Montcalm Community College (MI)
- › Mountain Gateway Community College (VA)
- › North Central State College (OH)
- › Northeast Community College (NE)
- › Patrick & Henry Community College (VA)
- › Reedley College (CA)
- › San Juan College (NM)
- › Southwestern Oregon Community College (OR)
- › Temple College (TX)
- › Tillamook Bay Community College (OR)
- › University of Arkansas CC – Batesville (AR)
- › Washington State Community College (OH)
- › West Virginia Northern CC (WV)
- › White Mountain Community College (NH)

Project Technical Assistance and Support

Rural Pathways 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 led by the Aspen College Excellence Program team.

Virtual Consultancies

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



Coaching Support

Participating colleges have an assigned implementation coach & leadership coach.

Site Visits & Office Hours

Colleges will have a 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 several webinar throughout the project.



Institute #3 Prep & Agenda

Preparation for the Pittsburgh Institute (March 11-13)

- Institute #3 advance work is due on Friday, February 20th
- Draft agenda, preview slides, and preview recording on Monday, February 23rd.
- On Wednesday, March 4th the leads will receive a Dropbox link with:
 - Institute #3 final agenda
 - Institute #3 team time documents
- 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 March 2nd from Sarah Cale.

Institute # 3 Agenda – Advancing DEEP K-12 Pathways

Day 1 – Wednesday, March 11th

- › **9:30am – 12:30pm** **Orientation for Coaches, Partners, & NCII**
- › **12:30 – 1:30pm** **College Team Leads/Coach Prep Meeting**
- › **1:30 – 2:00pm** **Institute Check-in**
- › **2:00 – 2:15pm** **Welcome and Institute Overview**
- › **2:15 – 2:45pm** **What I Learned while Supporting This Work**
- › **2:45 – 4:00pm** **A Regional Partnership that Has Transformed the College Going Culture**
- › **4:00 – 4:15pm** **Table Discussion**
- › **4:15 – 4:45pm** **Refresher on DEEP Pathways (followed by 15 mins to transition to Team Time)**
- › **4:45 – 6:00pm** **Team Time #1**
- › **6:00 – 7:00pm** **Opening Reception**
- › **7:00pm** **Dinner on your own**

Institute # 3 Agenda – *Advancing DEEP K-12 Pathways*

Day 2 – Thursday, March 12th

- › **8:00 – 8:45am** **Breakfast**
- › **8:45 – 10:00am** **Keynote Address: The Injustice of Place**
- › **10:00 – 10:30am** **Table Discussion**
- › **10:15 – 10:30am** **Networking Break**
- › **10:30 – 12:15pm** **Scaling and Sustaining Purposeful Dual Enrollment Workshop**
- › **12:15 – 1:15pm** **Lunch (followed by 15 mins to transition to Breakout Sessions #1)**
- › **1:30 – 2:30pm** **Breakout Sessions #1 (followed by 15 mins to transition to Team Time #2)**
- › **2:45 – 4:00 pm** **Team Time #2 (followed by 15 mins to transition to Breakout Sessions #2)**
- › **4:00 – 5:00pm** **Breakout Sessions #2**
- › **5:00pm** **Dinner on your own**

Institute # 3 Agenda – *Advancing DEEP K-12 Pathways*

Day 3 – Friday, March 13th

- › 7:30 – 8:30am Breakfast (Concurrent with CEOs and Superintendents-only breakfast)
- › 8:30 – 9:30am Creating High Quality Dual Enrollment Partnerships
- › 9:30 – 9:45am Transition to Team Time #3
- › 9:45 – 10:45am Team Time #3
- › 10:45 – 11:00am Break and Transition to Main Room
- › 11:00 – 11:50am The Student Voice
- › 11:50 – 12:00pm Closing Thoughts, Next Steps and Evaluation

Institute Norms

- **All events will start on time and end on time**
- **These institutes are working meetings -- and require active engagement from all participants in all sessions**
- **This project values the diverse range of participants that will be attending each institute -- all voices need to be valued and heard**
- **The ultimate success of this project will be measured by scaled changes to the student experience resulting in increased outcomes and goal attainment**
- **The rural focus of this project requires a much more intentional focus on the communities in which the colleges operate; it's our collective responsibility to engage the community partners and integrate their perspectives**
- **Evaluations are important and used; PLEASE complete them**

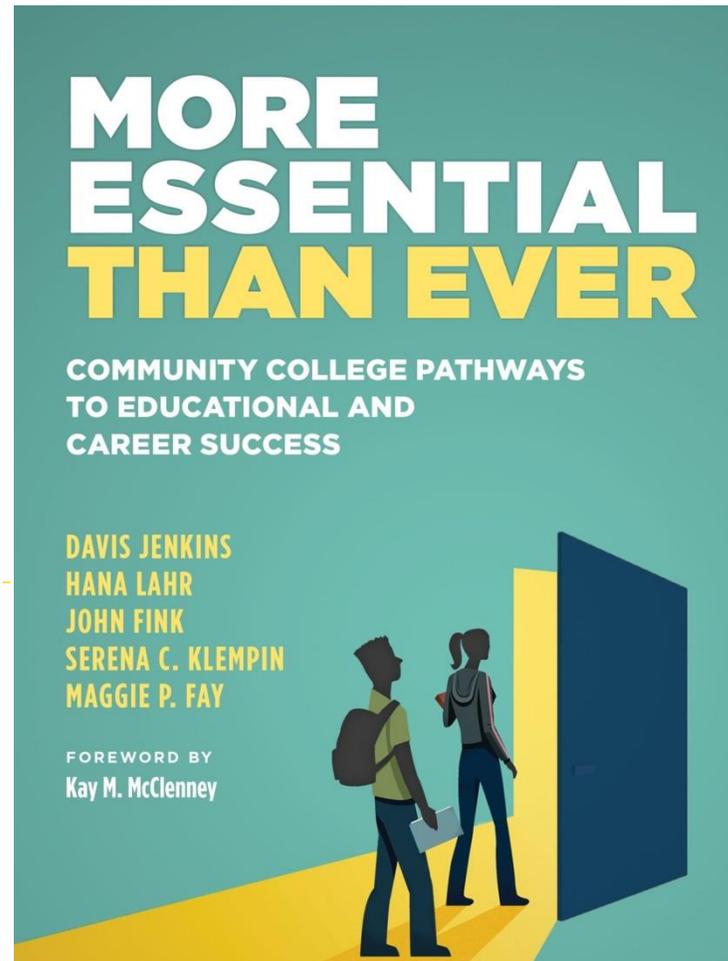


More Essential Than Ever Book Club

More Essential Than Ever Book Club

Shared Learning Opportunities

- Join Rural Pathways peers
 - › NCII will lead 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 received 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

NCII will follow-up with a survey to gauge college interest after Institute #3.



Dual Enrollment Equity Pathways (DEEP): An Overview



Any Questions

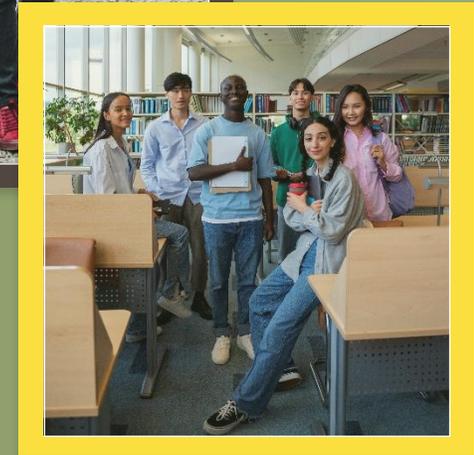
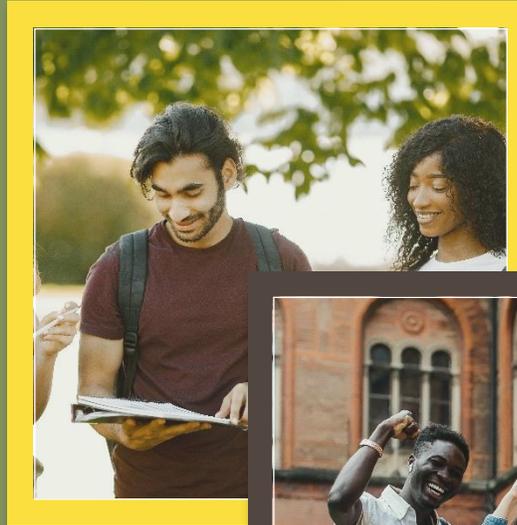


Reminders and next steps

- **Reminder to please complete the 2/6 Aspen Leadership Workshop evaluation**
 - Use the QR code on the right.
- **ECMC is conducting an evaluation on their rural portfolio and is reaching out with survey.**
- **NCII will send a "Next Steps" memo after the Institute, which provide info on the following items:**
 - Second round of data submissions (KPIs and Cross-Sector Assessment)
 - Interest survey on *More Essential Than Ever* Book Club
 - Virtual consultancies focused on college goals
 - Implementation coach site visits
 - Fourth Aspen Leadership Workshop – September 3, 2026
 - Planning for Institute # 4 in Dallas, TX – October 28-30, 2026
 - Info about team composition, advance work, and preview webinar



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