



Strategic Finance to Advance Guided Pathways

NCII RURAL GUIDED PATHWAYS LEADERSHIP SESSION
PARTICIPANT TOOLKIT

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Table of Contents

Learning Goals	3
Notes: Strategic Finance: Resource Acquisition and Alignment to Mission	4
A Lesson from the Field: Partnership for Sustainably Resourcing Guided Pathways	5
Team Time: Reflections on Leading Finance Strategically to Advance Guided Pathways	6
Team Time: Strategic Finance From-To	7



Learning Goals

- Understand how to approach institutional finance from a strategic mindset to advance guided pathways reforms
- Understand strategies for rural colleges to more effectively use limited institutional resources to advance student success reforms

Notes

Strategic Finance: Resource Acquisition and Alignment to Mission

Finance as Culture



Disciplined Revenue and Expenditures



Finance Through Partnership



NOTES:

A Lesson from the Field: Partnership for Sustainably Resourcing Guided Pathways

- Moderator: Josh Wyner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute College Excellence Program
- John Hartog, President, Northwest Iowa Community College

NOTES: Use the note-catcher below to capture reflections during the presentation and discussion.

IDEAS	QUESTIONS
OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES

Team Time: Reflections on Leading Finance Strategically to Advance Guided Pathways

Directions: Review your Strategic Finance Assessment Tool results. Then, discuss the questions below with your team.

Based on your Aspen Strategic Finance Assessment Tool results:

- To what extent is finance a core strategy for driving culture that promotes improved student outcomes?
- Is the college funding reforms through disciplined resourcing based on data, and if so, how?
- How is the college generating revenue from external sources through partnerships across the community ecosystem?

What are the most effective ways your college's approach to strategic finance contributes to improved student outcomes? What are the ways your approach to strategic finance might impede your guided pathways reform efforts? What evidence do you have from your assessment results?

Consider your guided pathways reform agenda. What upfront costs will be required for implementation? What recurring costs will be required to maintain reforms after the initial implementation period? Consider personnel, technology, communications, and indirect costs. Are there stranded assets that might be utilized to support implementation costs? (**Consider the [stranded assets worksheet](#) to inform your discussion. You do not need to complete this worksheet.**)

Team Time: Strategic Finance From-To

Directions: Considering your assessment tool results and lessons from the strategic finance presentation, complete the from-to below to determine the steps your team will take to strategically resource your guided pathways reforms.

	From	To
	What policies, routines, or practices do you currently have in place? What is the current condition of your institution's finance strategy?	What will strategic finance look like at your institution when aligned most effectively to the implementation of your guided pathways reforms? Consider new practices to start and ineffective practices to stop or modify.
Finance as Culture		
Disciplined Revenue and Expenditures		
Finance Through Partnership		