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Rural Pathways Project Institute 4



Strengthening the Community College Role in Bachelor's Completion and Post-Baccalaureate Success

Day 1 – October 28, 2026

Wi-Fi Information

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Network:

Password:

Rural Pathways Project Overview

This is a three-year project (2025-2028) 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

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Ascendium
Elevating opportunity

ECMC Foundation

The Ford Family Foundation

Greater Texas Foundation

Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies

CCRC Community College Research Center
Teachers College, Columbia University

College Excellence Program
aspen institute

Next Chapter Communications
Make your story count

Rural Guided Pathways Project Colleges

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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 College of Ohio (OH)
- West Virginia Northern CC (WV)
- White Mountain Community College (NH)

Rural Pathways Institutes & Curriculum

Institute #1

Creating and refining an institutional improvement culture
March 19-21, 2025
New Orleans, LA

Institute #2

Purpose, Planning and Program Alignment – Keys to Successful Student Outcomes
October 29-31, 2025
Louisville, KY

Institute #3

K-12 Summit
March 11-13, 2026
Pittsburgh, PA

Institute #4

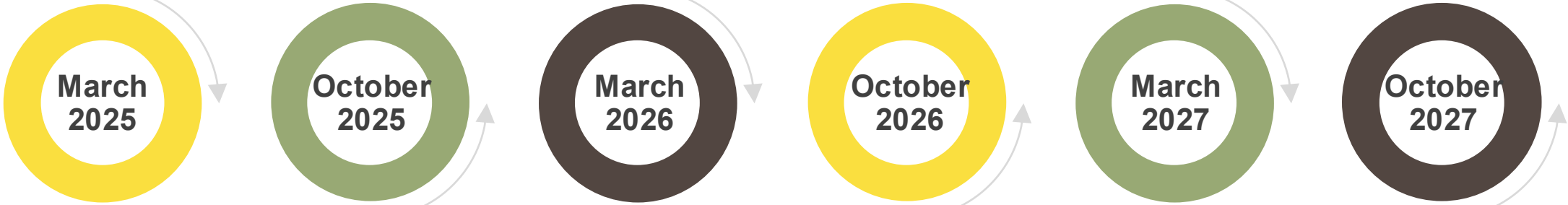
CC Role in BA Completion & Post-BA Success
October 28-30, 2026
Dallas, TX

Institute #5

Workforce/Employer Summit
March 17-19, 2027
Atlanta, GA

Institute #6

Identifying gaps and next steps – evaluating college culture
October 27-29, 2027
Portland, OR



Institute # 4 Agenda

Strengthening the Role in BA Completion & Post-BA Success

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Day 1 – Wednesday, Oct 28th

- **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 – 4:15pm** Bachelor's Degree Attainment and Alignment to Good Jobs Workshop
- **4:15 – 4:45pm** The Bachelor's Degree: Rethinking Pathways for Students in Rural Communities
- **4:45 – 5:00pm** Transition to Team Time
- **5:00 – 6:00pm** Team Time #1
- **6:00 – 7:00pm** Opening Reception
- **7:00pm** Dinner on your own

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



Bachelor's Degree Attainment and Alignment to Good Jobs

Kathy Booth & Sterling Smith





The Bachelor's Degree: Rethinking Pathways for Students in Rural Communities

Davis Jenkins & Rob Johnstone







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Rural Pathways Project Institute 4



Strengthening the Community College Role in Bachelor's Completion and Post-Baccalaureate Success

Day 2 – October 29, 2026

Institute # 4 Agenda

Strengthening the Role in BA Completion & Post-BA Success

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Day 2 AM – Thursday, Oct 29th

- **8:00 – 8:45am** Breakfast
- **8:45 – 9:45am** Translating General Education to Meet Employer Needs
- **9:45 – 10:00am** Table Discussion
- **10:00– 10:15am** Networking Break
- **10:15 – 12:30pm** Cross-college Working Sessions



Translating General Education to Meet Employer Needs

Chris Baldwin, Erica Orians, & Kevin Stotts





Cross-college Working Sessions – Opportunities and Barriers to Bachelor's Degree Attainment

by College Coaching Team



Institute # 4 Agenda

Strengthening the Role in BA Completion & Post-BA Success

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Day 2 PM – Thursday, Oct 29th

- **12:30 – 1:15pm** Lunch
- **1:15 – 2:15pm** Democracy's Campus 2036 – The Work of the Higher Education Alliance
- **2:15 – 2:30pm** Transition to Team Time #2
- **2:30 – 3:30pm** Team Time #2
- **3:30 – 3:45pm** Transition to Main Room
- **3:45 – 4:15pm** Embedded Applied Learning and the Impact on Students
- **4:15 – 4:45pm** Integrating Applied Learning Experiences into Transfer Pathways
- **4:45 – 5:45pm** Beyond Transfer: Transfer and Learning Mobility
- **5:45pm** Dinner on your own
- **6:00pm** President's Reception



Democracy's Campus 2036 – The Work of the Alliance for Higher Education







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Mike Gavin



Embedded Applied Learning and the Impact on Students



Hana Lahr



Integrating Applied Learning Experiences into Transfer Pathways

Kelly Harper & Cassandra Segura











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The Transfer Behind Transfer

Patricia Parker

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Rural Pathways Project Institute 4



Strengthening the Community College Role in Bachelor's Completion and Post-Baccalaureate Success

Day 3 – October 30, 2026

Institute # 4 Agenda

Strengthening the Role in BA Completion & Post-BA Success

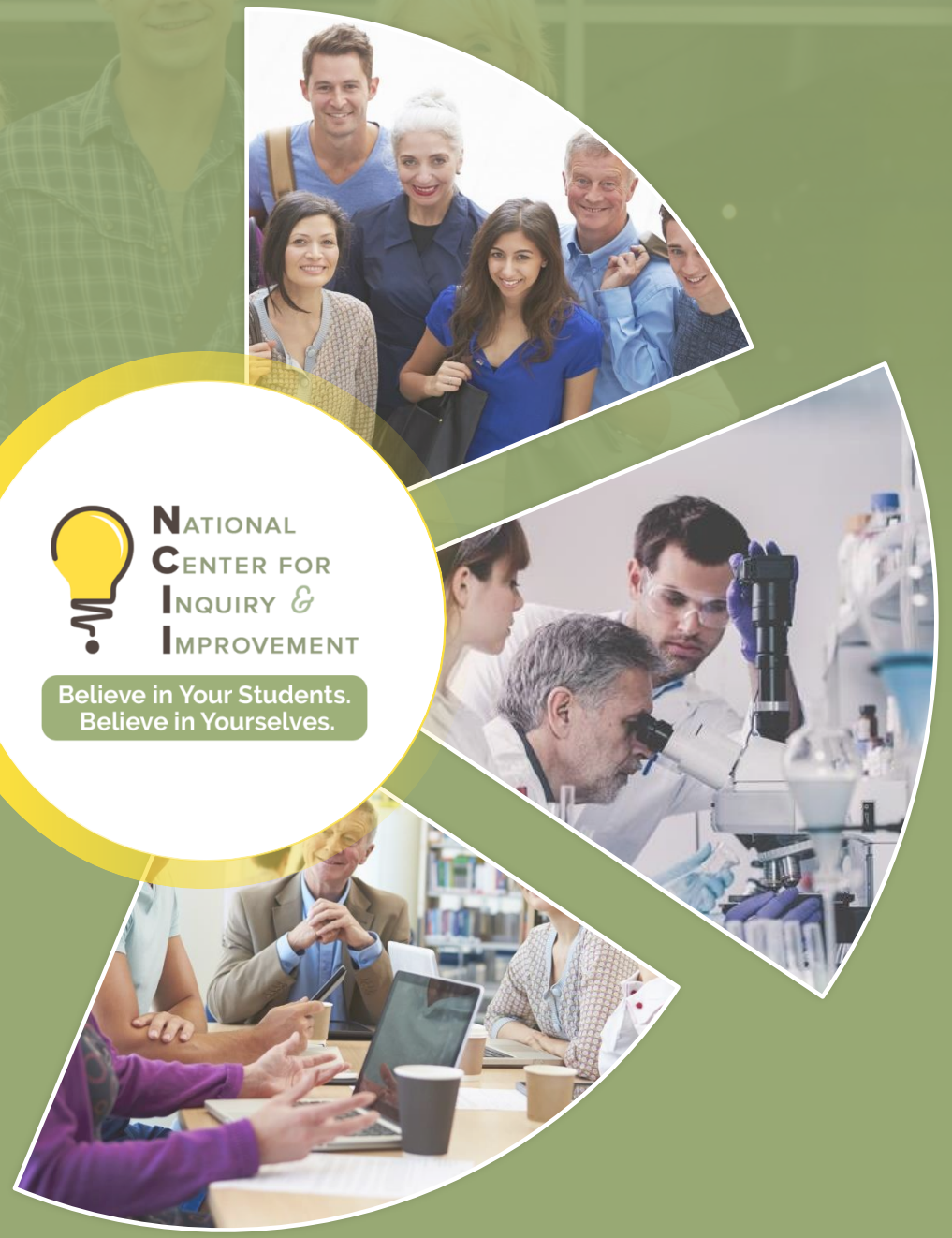
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Day 3 – Friday, Oct 30th

- **7:30 – 8:30am** Breakfast (Concurrent with CEOs only breakfast)
- **8:30 – 9:15am** Transfer among Rural Learners in California
- **9:15 – 9:30am** Transition to Team Time #3
- **9:30 – 10:45am** Team Session #3 – Identifying and Planning for Next Steps
- **10:45 – 11:00am** Break and Transition to Main Room
- **11:00 – 11:50am** Innovative Models for Transfer
- **11:50 – 12:00pm** Closing Thoughts, Next Steps and Evaluation



Transfer among Rural Learners in California



Darla Cooper & Daisy Segovia



Innovative Rural College Transfer Partnerships

Tiffany Blackwell, Shadi Kilani, Kate Mahar



Next Steps

- All team time docs due to Sarah Cale (sarah@ncii-improve.com) by Friday, December 11th
- Next Aspen Leadership Teams Virtual Sessions – Friday, January 29th
- Institute #5 – March 17-19, 2027 – Atlanta Marriott Buckhead
  - Team should include employer and economic development partners
  - Advance work details will be shared in the coming weeks
  - Project orientation on Monday, February 8th (3:00-4:00 pm ET) for employer and economic development partners
  - Institute #5 Preview Webinar will be on Thursday, February 18th (2:00-3:30pm ET)

Contact



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