National Center for Inquiry & Improvement

Believe in Your Students. Believe in Yourselves.

Rural Pathways Project

Institute #4 Preview



October 5, 2026

Agenda

National Center for Inquiry & Improvement
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- Welcome
- Brief Project Overview
- Institute #4 Prep & Agenda
- Team Times Overview
- Questions, Reminders and Next Steps



Project Overview

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.

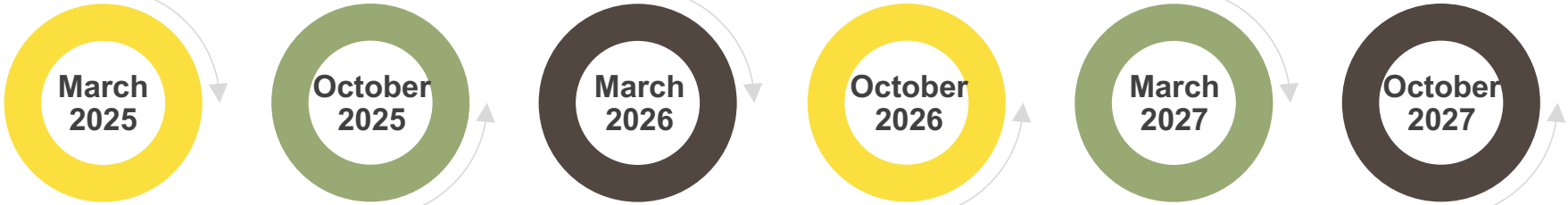
Site Visits & Office Hours

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.

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

Post-graduation success for transfer programs
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
Location Portland, OR







Institute #4
Prep & Agenda

Preparation for the Dallas Institute (October 28-30)

- Institute #4 advance work is due on **Friday, October 16th**
- Draft agenda, preview slides, and preview recording on **Wednesday, October 7th.**
- On **Wednesday, October 21st** college leads will receive a Dropbox link with:
  - **Institute #4 final agenda**
  - **Institute #4 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 have received hotel confirmations from Sarah Cale last week**

Updates to Cross-sector Self-assessment and Goals

- We sent an email to the leads on 4/27 outlining the update process
- We will resend the email to the leads following the webinar
- Updates to the Self-assessment and Goals should be completed before the Institute
  - Goals should be sent to your coach and to Sarah
- The final team time will be an opportunity to review both documents with your coach before final submission
- Reminder – there is no KPI submission this fall

Institute # 4 Agenda

Strengthening the Role in BA Completion & Post-BA Success

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 # 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

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 – 2:30** 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

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

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



OVERVIEW OF INSTITUTE TEAM TIMES

Reminders and Next Steps

- **Reminder to please complete the 9/3 Aspen Leadership Workshop evaluation**
  - **Use the QR code on the following slide**

- **NCII will send a ”Next Steps” memo after the Institute, which provide info on the following items:**
  - **Fifth Aspen Leadership Workshop – Virtual on January 29, 2027**
  - **Planning for Institute #5 in Atlanta, GA – March 17-19, 2027**
    - **Information about team composition, advance work, and preview webinar**
      - ✓ **EMPLOYER/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

Session Evaluation

Thank you for completing our session evaluation!
We value your feedback and use it to continuously improve.

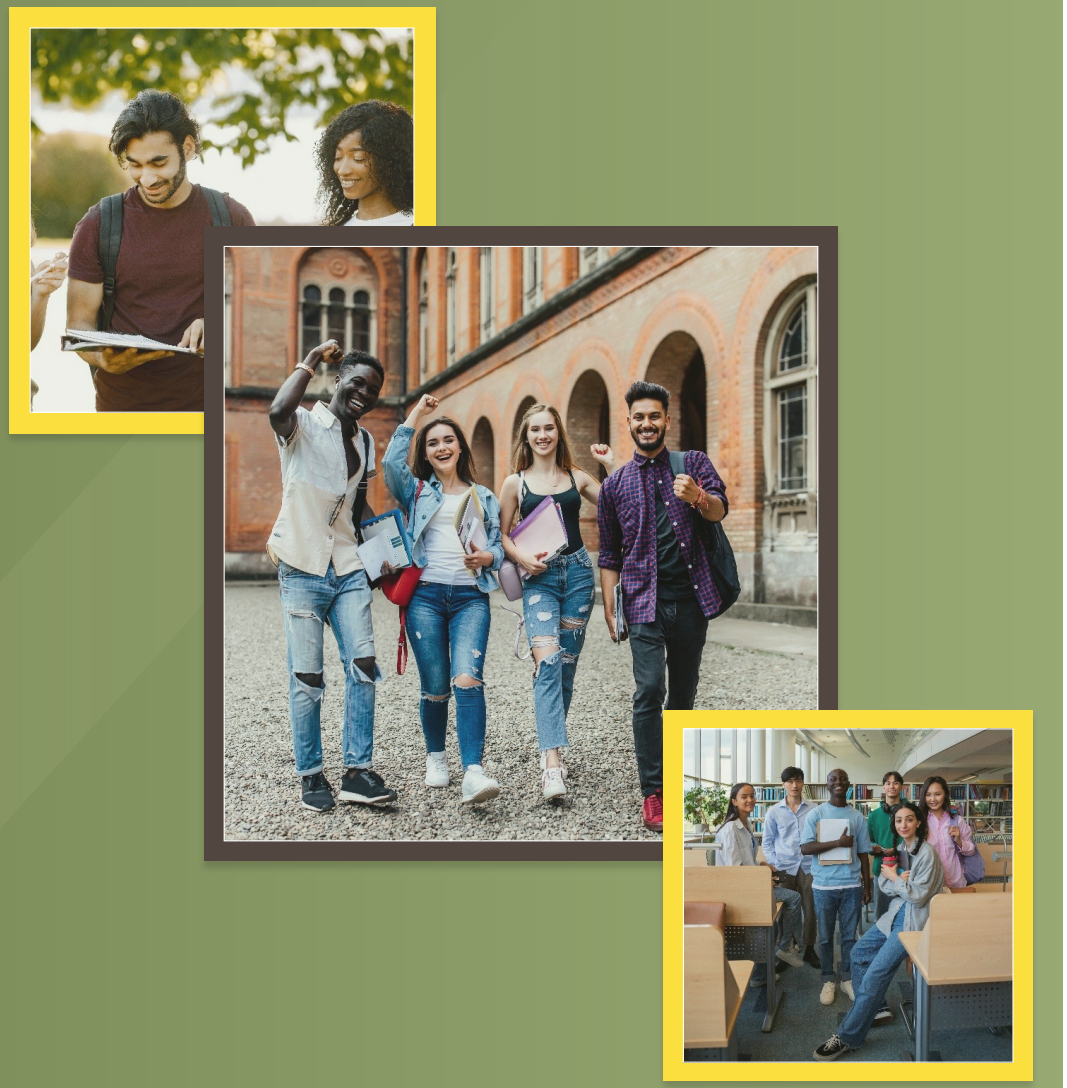
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Any Questions

Contact



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