
LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE

IEPI/CCCCO Conference

Ready. Set. Design. Accelerating Guided Pathways to the Next Level

ENGAGING STUDENTS AS PARTNERS IN GUIDED PATHWAYS REDESIGN

Santa Monica College counselor and GP lead Jenna Gausman and three SMC students (out of the total 15 “squad” discuss benefits of including students from the start of GP redesign and shifting from seeking “student-voice” to ensuring “student-engagement.” Read more on [SMC’s approach to include student voices](#).

LMC Questions to SMC students:

- How to involve students in Tri-Structure?
 - SMC created a “Student Advisory Squad” (does not use tri-chair structure as LMC has envisioned)
 - The “squad” was developed by first creating student profiles that represented a diversity of student perspectives at SMC. Counselors then sought out interested students based on the profiles. (15 total students form their “squad” and all are paid) (*must be a Full-Time student with 12+ units*).
 - The #1 incentive for joining the GP advisory group is payment. Students have time constraints and those being paid are more likely to represent.
 - Knowing their voice is being heard, seeing their ideas in motion, being at the pulse of current issues on campus, gaining leadership skills and seeing their own personal growth is motivation for continuing.
- How to engage incoming students in K-12: those who are most at risk and at need?
 - Students expressed that having information before entering college would carry great benefit. Although this panel wasn’t focused on K-12 strategies, visit: <http://www.smc.edu/EnrollmentDevelopment/NewStudents/Pages/I-am-a-High-School-Student.aspx> to view SMC’s “I am a High School Student” page –a wealth of information for the student AND parents AND HS Counselors for student supports/enrollment as well as housing and outreach information.
- First Year Experience: Including Ed Planning course
 - Student input: “Counselors are the main thread to the student”

Moving from student voice to student engagement:

Students who are most impacted – treat as ongoing, iterative process

Ensure equitable representation – full student access

- SMC and the “Student Squad” conducted (with regard to program mapping and website content):
 - Videos
 - Focus Groups
 - Voting on Specific Design Choices
- At the monthly committee meetings students are each assigned one topic to research. They come back together and share their learnings with each other and the Steering Committee and discuss what information is unique and/or overlaps.
- SMC did a Meyers Briggs on their student squad to help better understand character traits and strengths of which positions/perspectives/issues/topics to assign
- GP meetings lead to better understanding of terms/initiatives throughout the campus and allows for dissemination of information to peers
- Students gain interest among other peers just by talking about Guided Pathways and their involvement
- Students voiced the following challenges/information:
 - Student need to be heard/with real action conducted from their suggestions/recommendations/findings
 - Encouragement is KEY – even the smallest compliment/acknowledgement goes a long way towards staying motivated
 - Regarding program mapping per students:
 - Need/want training prior to mapping meetings; maybe one meeting can be all about training with new program, next meeting will be researching/providing feedback on mapping
 - Faculty and Staff needed training too – in order to better support students
 - Faculty need to support their own discipline with mapping
 - Having agenda items in advance allows time for research and coming prepared

Three Main Goals/Focuses of Guided Pathways:

- Time to Transfer
- Equity Gaps
- Multiple Units