

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Giving Community College Students a Roadmap

From Entrance to Engagement in Educational Achievement and Success

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTIONS

Twelve Community Colleges to Serve as Exemplars in Fostering Student Success

Applications accepted through April 28, 2010

What is the Community College Roadmap Initiative?

The goal for the GIVING COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS A ROADMAP project is to help community colleges create robust and proactive programs of academic support – tied to expected learning outcomes. These programs engage students at entrance and teach them, from the outset, how to become active partners in their own quest for educational success. The goal is to build community college students' prospects for success by addressing the relationship between learning outcomes for students and opportunity in the marketplace at the same time the colleges are preparing students to move from entry to full and appropriate engagement in the academy.

Each participating institution will work to ensure that their student success programs are integrated with, and reinforced by, the ongoing educational culture of the institution: its focus on learning outcomes, its emphasis on engaged learning practices, its approach to assessment, and its proactive efforts to create an active community of support for high achievement.

The Roadmap project will work with individual community colleges that are positioned to be the locus of effective, learning-centered innovation, and also with their partner community college systems, engaging the latter as a proactive catalyst for broad institutional change that is linked to regional as well as national priorities. The goal is development of national models that can be widely adapted on many campuses.

Selection Criteria

AAC&U is seeking community colleges that are committed to a set of essential learning outcomes similar to those articulated in the LEAP initiative (www.aacu.org/leap). The leadership institutions in the Roadmap project will exhibit some or all of the following characteristics:

- A set of learning goals and/or intended learning outcomes that students are expected to achieve through their studies;
- A commitment to student success demonstrated through programs of academic support, advising structures, and high impact practices;
- A commitment to student engagement and persistence through early interventions in the academic journey;
- An integrated approach to preparing students for active participation in a diverse democracy;
- A curriculum that advances integrative and cumulative learning;
- Links between classroom learning and the wider society;
- A strong interest in taking their student success programs to an even higher level of impact and effectiveness.

Institutions have been nominated to be part of this initiative based on their commitment to student learning outcomes and programs that support student success.

What are the advantages and responsibilities of the Leadership Institutions?

ADVANTAGES

The community college leadership institutions will influence the important role of community colleges in the larger academic community. With many expenses covered by AAC&U, opportunities will allow institutions to:

(In Phase One)

- Be recognized as a national model in supporting community college student success;
- Have the opportunity to learn from peer institutions.

(In Phase Two)

- Partner with AAC&U and have access to AAC&U resources to advance the goals of the project;
- Be part of a community college network that provides innovation and enhancements in serving the needs of students and increasing their success;
- Help define community college excellence for the wider academic community;
- Provide heightened focus on essential learning outcomes;
- Receive grant assistance for campus work on student success.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The selected community colleges will be expected to:

- Choose a campus liaison for the Roadmap initiative;
- Engage multiple representatives of your institution with Roadmap project activities (working meetings and institutes, AAC&U annual/regional meetings, etc.);
- Secure an institutional commitment from the college's president, chief academic officer, and chief student affairs officer.

How can a campus become a Roadmap Leadership Institution?

1. Complete the enclosed Application Cover Sheet and have it signed by your institution's president, chief academic officer, and chief student affairs officer.
2. Build a case to support your community college's involvement as a leadership institution in the Giving Community College Students a Roadmap project.

The selection process will be completed by August 2010. Please submit your materials electronically in a single PDF file. This will ensure that the narrative and any supporting materials stay together during the review process. Please submit the file to sutton@aacu.org by April 28, 2010.

Note: If printed documents are mentioned in the narrative, please provide titles and page numbers and include electronic copies of the relevant pages with the noted passages highlighted. You need not repeat the information; simply use the narrative to direct the reader, in the correct order, to the material. Text from institutional documents also may be electronically pasted into the narrative, but references to the official college documents should still be included.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Giving Community College Students a Roadmap

An Initiative of the Association of American Colleges & Universities
With support from the MetLife Foundation

Planning Phase (March 2010 through July 2010)

March 2010	Nomination and evaluation of institutions for inclusion
April 28, 2010	Applications submitted
May-June 2010	Site visits to institutions
July 2010	Review and selection of leadership institutions
After July 2010	AAC&U will feature both nominated and selected institutions in print and on-line publications, and other communications outlets.

Full Project (August 2010 through June 2013)*

The goal for the Roadmap project will be to help community colleges create robust and proactive programs of academic support—tied to expected learning outcomes—that engage students at entrance and teach them, from the outset, how to become active partners in their own quest for educational success.

Project elements and activities will include:

- Nationally-recognized advisory board to provide leadership and expertise for the initiative;
- Project meetings with institutional teams and AAC&U leaders;
 - Grant will provide travel offsets; institutional match
- Intensive summer institute with institutional teams;
 - Grant will cover registration fees and meals for campus teams; institution will provide travel funds
- Development, pilot, and measurement of student success programs;
 - Grant will provide \$10,000 subsidy to each campus, above and beyond costs of project meetings and summer institute
- Engagement with institutions' partner systems and/or other networks to amplify the results of the work;
- Development of leadership institutions as national models for student success;
- Development of—and wide visibility for—an online “hub” that outlines a roadmap toward specific practices that support community college student success, drawing on the work of the leadership institutions;
- Promotion of leadership institutions' work through AAC&U's web site, online newsletter, print publications, annual meeting, and working conferences;
- A national conference on supporting community college student success, featuring the Roadmap leadership institutions.

*Pending approval from the board of the MetLife Foundation. Invited proposal will be acted on in June 2010.