

# Funding Guided Pathways Reforms at Small Colleges

Three Ohio Community Colleges  
Show How to Do It



**CCRC** COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
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# College leaders have questions about funding guided pathways



**What are the costs of implementing  
guided pathways at an “average”  
community college?**

# Main takeaways from 2020 report

## Average costs

- GP is more costly to implement than maintain.
- Advising is by far the most costly element of the reform.
- GP requires +3% extra resources (price-adjusted).
- Some economies of scale exist.

## Value

- GP offers clear economic value for students that offset tuition increases

## Funding strategies

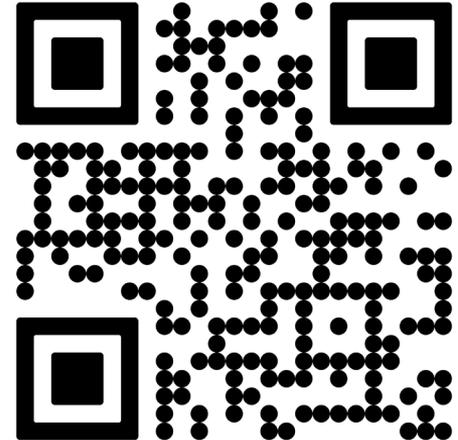
- Almost half of GP costs are covered by resource reallocation and efficiency gains; extra public funding and external grants are not enough.
- Tuition/fee increases are necessary but modest, delayed until after implementation begins, and temporary; they do not need to cover the entire resource requirement.

**How can small colleges implement  
and fund guided pathways reforms?**

# Three Case Study Institutions



Access the report and case studies here!



# Challenges for smaller colleges

- Small colleges often **lack economies of scale** that can generate revenue to support investments in technology, staff training, and release time for staff to participate in reforms.
- Taking on a multi-year systemic change process means that faculty and staff, who already wear many hats, **have to take on even more roles and responsibilities** to plan and manage the process.
- Small colleges may have **less access to grants that can support professional development and consultants** that can assist with the change process.

# Redesigning the student experience into and through programs

- Improved program information
- Strengthened program onboarding
- Eliminated prerequisite remediation
- Moved from generalist advising to case management advising by field
- Built on-ramps to college and career pathways for high school students
- And more!

# How colleges funded these reforms

- **Redefined roles and cross-trained staff** to work as teams to help students explore, enter, and complete programs.
- **Used technology to facilitate both monitoring of student progress** and information sharing on efforts to provide students with needed supports.
- Invested in **strategic training and professional development**.
- Used **grant funding to build capacity**, not to cover operating expenses.
- Capitalized on free knowledge-sharing, professional development, and coaching from Ohio Success Center

# How did the small colleges compare to the larger colleges in the 2020 report?

## Funding:

- No increases in tuition (4/5 of medium to large college increased tuition)
- Not as much reliance on grants and fundraising
- Large and small colleges relied heavily on reassignment and reallocation

## Costs

- Smaller colleges spent less money on all-college convening, faculty stipends, and outside technical assistance
- Smaller colleges did not hire new staff to coordinate GP implementation

# Thanks!

Hana Lahr, lahr@tc.columbia.edu

Vicky Wood, vwood@wscc.edu