



# Title III Guided Pathways Mission & Highlights



**In October 2018**, North Seattle College was awarded a Title III: Institutions Grant. This federal grant is a five-year, \$2.2 million grant. The intention of the Title III grant is to improve the college as a whole, close equity gaps, and increase retention and completion rates for students.

Washington Guided Pathways

"The Washington State Guided Pathways Advisory Committee (GPAC) has adopted a Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles grounded in values of Equity and Social Justice, Educational and Career attainment, Learning, Community, and Accountability."

**Vision** - "A system that advances racial, social, and economic justice by achieving equitable student aspiration, access, economic progress, and educational and career attainment."

**Mission** - "The Washington Student Success Center works to create an equitable system that prepares all learners to engage in a diverse society and workforce, achieve economic mobility through educational attainment and contribute to a socially just society."

**Guiding Principles** - "Guided Pathways requires urgent, radical, equity-minded, transformational organization change; a culturally responsive commitment to racial and social equity by dismantling systemic policies and practices that perpetuate inequity; intentional collaborative learning through professional development, partnerships, and resource development. Guided Pathways requires a focus on learning and outcomes aligned with community values and industry needs. It is essential to fully engage the voices of students, faculty, staff, and community members in adaptive problem focused inquiry processes to lead to meaningful action and sustained systemic change."

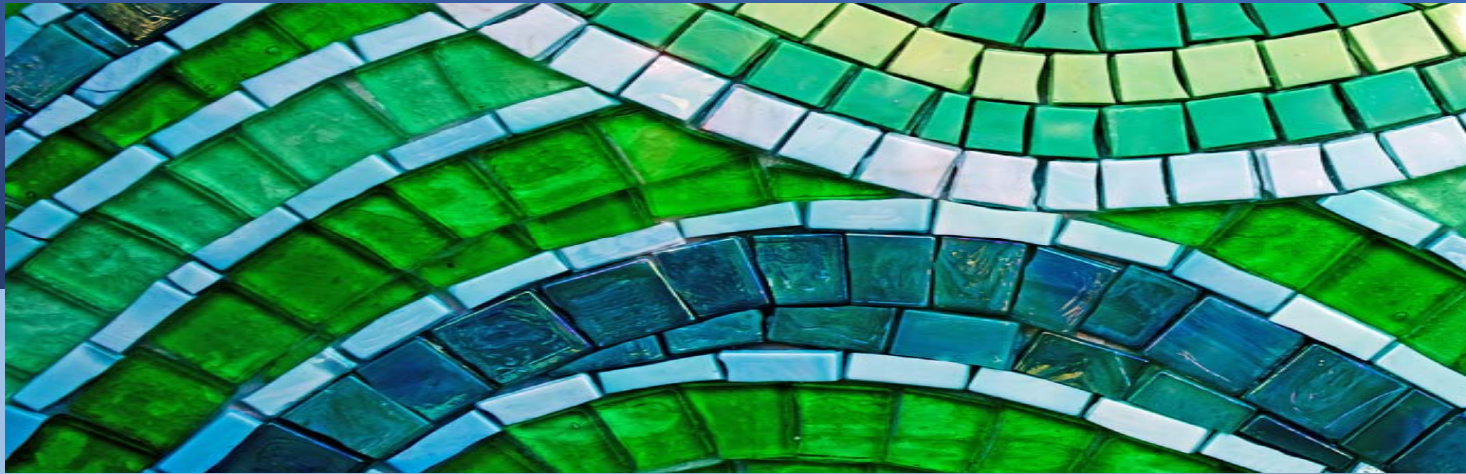
<https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/programs-services/student-success-center/guided-pathways.aspx>

*The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.*

September 2021 Guided Pathways Retreat for North  
"Changing the culture is as much a part of the work as changing the processes and is a bigger task." - Dr. Deb Gilchrist

**Core themes in advancing student success (Toni Castro):**

- Create innovative culturally responsive and student centered approach to get on the path and stay on the path
- Create a sense of belonging
- Move away from a transactional process
- Remove pain by creating & improving navigational process



## Land & Institutional Acknowledgement

North Seattle College acknowledges that we occupy the former lands of the Coast Salish People, the descendants of the first people of this region. We recognize their long-standing stewardship of this land, and that their cultures endure as a valued part of our modern society.

We encourage participants to consider their responsibilities to the people and land, both here and elsewhere, and to stand in solidarity with Native, Indigenous, and First Nations People, and their sovereignty, cultural heritage, and lives.

We are honored to continue building a strong relationship with Clear Sky, a youth-centered, youth-driven program that creates successful grassroots organizing with the clear purpose of serving Native youth.



Equity and Welcome Center  
in solidarity with  
our BIPOC students

Mon. 3:30pm Asian Student  
Association (ASA)

Tues. 3pm Indigenous Student Alliance

Tues. 4pm Pacific Islander (PIA)

Wed. 3pm LGBTQA+

Wed. 4pm Students with Disabilities

Thurs. 3pm Latina/O/X

Fri. 2pm Black Student Union (BSU)

Request disability accommodations:

[ds@seattlecollegs.edu](mailto:ds@seattlecollegs.edu)

206-934-3697

[Student Zoom Lounge](#)

PASSCODE: 119678



## Innovations Conference Interview with Tomoko Okada, Workforce Education, Administrative & Student Resource Specialist

### What was the Innovations Conference about?

The conference was about addressing the basic needs of the students and creating a culture of caring. They discussed what a culture of caring looks like at higher education institutions and what we can do to make the college more friendly for all students.

My role in Workforce Education is to help enrolled students access basic needs resources in order to pursue their educational path.

### What equity goals will it accomplish?

Making resources clear and accessible is key. This led to my involvement in putting together and managing the [Essential Needs Referral Guide](#) for staff and faculty and a student-facing website of Basic Needs Resources.

### What impact do you hope this will have on our BIPOC students at North?

We can connect our BIPOC students with resources more readily and support their basic needs by building stronger connections with them with cultural humility.

### What Connection does this have to Guided Pathways?

Basic needs support helps students stay on their educational pathway, one of the Guided Pathways pillars. Moving forward, I believe this could help us to better identify student obstacles with an equity lens.

<https://www.league.org/inn2021>



# Interview with Dr. Vashti Bryant, North's Math and Science Dean: Statewide Guided Pathways Retreat

## **What was the State Guided Pathways Retreat about?**

The conference focused on the changing needs of our students in higher education. There was an emphasis on understanding today's students and creating stronger connections with them to support their academic and future career success.

## **What equity goals will it accomplish?**

Creating transparency in academic pathways while providing supports and a sense of community to students will close racial/ethnic opportunity gaps. This will benefit all students and society as diverse perspectives are valuable in the classroom and workplace.

## **What impact do you hope this will have on our BIPOC students at North?**

Our BIPOC students at North will benefit from having clearer guidance on how to navigate higher education, flourish from individual attention and the campus' inclusive community, and achieve their academic goals. The hope is that North will see an increase in BIPOC students' course success and degree completion rates.

## **What Connection does this have to STEM students at North?**

Guided Pathways efforts create academic roadmaps for students and include additional supports to guide students through program completion. This initiative identifies solutions to barriers in higher education. Developing communities of learning, providing step-by-step maps to degree completion and/or transfer, and offering academic supports like corequisites in mathematics have been demonstrated as successful practices to support STEM students.



# Interview with Jillian Fisher

## All-Campus Student Orientation - BIG Success!

### **What was the purpose of this orientation and who did it serve?**

This newly redesigned student orientation was to help new students gain a sense of belonging early on in their NSC academic careers by building community and having the opportunity to meet other students, staff and faculty, getting connected to campus resources, learning about our areas of study, and instilling a sense of school spirit and pride; all with the hopeful intention that feeling connected to the campus community will help student success and retention. Since many students who started the previous academic year had never actually set foot on campus, all students were welcomed and encouraged to attend our Fall 2021 All-Campus Student Orientation.

### **What aspects of the orientation would you like to highlight?**

Nearly 400 students attended the on campus walk through event with 16 faculty participating in the virtual Area of Study Information Sessions, countless staff and departments sharing information and resources, students from Student Leadership conducting campus tours, and a visit from Star our Pacific Tree Frog mascot!

### **What equity goals will this orientation accomplish?**

By having an event for all new students, ranging from ESL to BAS and all students in between, we were hoping to break down some of our silos and come together as a whole campus community. Guided Pathways aims to make sure all students get clear and consistent information, so having this accessible to all students (although we realize not all new students could attend) no matter their program meant that anyone would be able to learn about our resources, start to understand their area of study, and begin to see how they fit into the NSC community.

### **What impact do you hope this will have on our BIPOC students at North?**

We hope that by having a large event right at the beginning of their experience, our BIPOC students could begin to meet and connect with other BIPOC students, staff and faculty; hopefully helping students feel that they have a place and belong on our campus. In addition, we wanted students to learn about the various resources available to them right from the beginning and to normalize accessing these resources and supports.



**BIG THANKS** to organizers  
Dr. Mari Acob-Nash, Jillian  
Fisher & Susan Shanahan

Admissions  
Registration  
Financial Aid  
Funding Services  
Student Services  
Testing  
Credentials  
College Orientation  
Pathways Advising  
Counseling  
Transfer  
Veteran Services  
Completion Coaching  
Disability Services  
Student Success Services



## Moving Forward

Amazing work is happening thanks to our Guiding Team at North which includes the executive team, instructional deans, faculty members, leadership staff from student services, and students. Guiding Team serves two purposes: serving as the oversight committee for the Title III grant and providing leadership and direction for Guided Pathways work. Guiding Team subcommittees continue to work on specific Guided Pathways projects that consist of members from all over campus. 2020-2021 brought student members to participate in our subcommittees for the first time.

**Program Mapping – 67 web based transfer program maps launched fall 2021**

**Intake and Onboarding – New all campus orientation kick off and one stop model**

**First Year Experience – Integrated Studies fall pilot with ENGL, HDC and INFO**

**Research & Data – New data dashboards coming**

**Part-time Faculty Engagement – Surveyed part-time faculty fall quarter**

**Trauma-Informed Care – Professional development completed for staff and faculty**

**Interested in joining a subcommittee?**

**Contact Aimee Brown at**

**[aimee.brown@seattlecolleges.edu](mailto:aimee.brown@seattlecolleges.edu)**

**[Guiding Team Roster link](#)**

