



ConnectEd

The California Center for College and Career

Transforming today's education
for tomorrow's economy

July 26, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the 2009 Multiple Pathways Summer Institute! This is the first meeting of the Leadership Development Series for the California Multiple Pathways District Initiative. We know how hard you worked this spring developing district implementation plans, and we are eager to work with you to carry this work forward during this Summer Institute.

You are at the forefront of a movement to transform California's high schools—and we are grateful for your dedication and perseverance in these challenging times for our state. Not only will your hard work planning and implementing systems of quality pathways improve student outcomes, but it will also provide the state with needed evidence that this approach is an effective way to improve high schools. Demonstrating the effectiveness of pathways to policymakers, parents, and the broader education community should generate more support that will further assist you and others in implementing systems of quality programs.

To realize these student outcomes—improved student achievement, higher graduation rates, and better options after high school—pathways must achieve both high quality and fidelity to the guiding principles and core components of the multiple pathways approach. With that aim in mind, this Summer Institute focuses on what defines pathway quality and how to assess it. We will introduce a draft pathway certification tool that will help guide activities and discussions during the week. ConnectEd coaches, staff, and partners will provide resources and assistance needed to implement pathways that produce positive student outcomes.

We know there is much work to be done and want to assure you that you are not alone in facing the challenges of implementing systems of multiple pathways. ConnectEd, our partners in pathway design and implementation, the 100+ members of the Coalition for Multiple Pathways, legislators, and the James Irvine Foundation are here to support your efforts—providing tools, models, policies, and funding to address your needs. Together we can demonstrate to the state and local communities that multiple pathways offer an effective approach for improving high schools and ensuring lasting success for students in both postsecondary education and career.

We deeply appreciate the energy, commitment, and hard work you bring to this next stage of development in offering quality pathways to California's students. Thank you for joining us this week. We look forward to an engaging and productive Summer Institute!

With warmest regards,

Gary Hoachlander
President

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