GP Working Group Conclusion

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE (FYE)
The Connecticut State Colleges and Universities First Year Experience (FYE) working group was charged by Dr. Jane Gates, CSCU Provost and Senior VP Academic & Student Affairs, on July 3, 2018. This Guided Pathways (GP) group was led by Professor Heidi Zenie (TRCC), Dr. Gayle Barrett (MXCC), Michael Buccilli (GCC), and Dr. Francine Rosselli-Navarra (MCC) and included FYE faculty, staff, and administrators from across the CSCU community colleges, as well as CSCU System Office staff and other related stakeholders. The group reported to the Choice and Holistic Student Support Redesign (HSSR) subgroups of the CSCU Guided Pathways Task Force.

FYE CHARGE
To use Guided Pathways practices and existing expertise in the CSCU community colleges to design and recommend policies and practices that facilitate student retention and completion through the development of a First Year Experience (FYE) course that provides opportunity for career exploration and leads to the creation of an academic/career plan.

FYE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- The FYE work group completed the design of the three-credit College and Career Success course (CCS 101) for CT State Community College in Fall 2019.
  - The course was informed by Guided Pathways principles and backward designed to ensure that students develop the knowledge and skills to establish and achieve their academic and career goals.
  - The course outcomes were carefully crafted to serve as a foundation for students to begin to develop core general education competencies, such as critical thinking and information literacy.
  - The CCS 101 course includes a focus on student success and career exploration culminating in the creation of an academic and career plan.
- The FYE work group developed and submitted a statement in support of the CCS 101 course recommending the following:
  - FYE/Student Success departments and faculty move the course through their campus curriculum approval process and begin teaching this course at their respective colleges.
  - Academic administrators support the scheduling and staffing of the course.
  - Academic programs include this course in their newly-aligned curriculum for the one college.
- The recommendations of the FYE work group were affirmed by the Choice Architecture and Holistic Student Support Redesign teams.
- The work and recommendations from the FYE work group provided the foundation for the College and Career Success (CCS 101) policy recommendation. The policy recommendations, supported by the staff report, were approved by the BOR in June 2020.
  (https://www.ct.edu/files/policies/1.18%20CSCC%20College%20and%20Career%20Success%200101.pdf)
CONCLUSION
The Academic and Student Affairs Division of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System Office is deeply grateful to all leads and members of the FYE team and all other parties involved for dedicating their time and expertise to complete the working group charge and for the achievements listed herein. The efforts of this team will have positive impacts on students across the state of Connecticut.

Jane Gates
Working Group concluded by Dr. Jane Gates,
CSCU Provost and Senior VP Academic & Student Affairs
June 19, 2021
Conclusion Date