

AN OVERVIEW OF THE RURAL GUIDED PATHWAYS PROJECT

Dr. Gretchen Schmidt
Senior Fellow, NCII
May 18, 2023
Rural Funders Peer Network



**NATIONAL
CENTER FOR
INQUIRY &
IMPROVEMENT**



Guided Pathways Overview

Guided pathways is framework for redesigning colleges for access and success—starting with end goals in mind

Clarify paths to student end goals

- Backward map all programs from good jobs and/or transfer in a major
- Organize programs by field (meta-major) to facilitate exploration and engage students in an academic and career community

Help students get on a path

- Help all new students (including high school dual enrollment and adult ed students) explore options and interests, connect with an academic/career community, and make a purposeful program choice
- Replace prerequisite remediation with teaching students to be effective learners in college-level program foundation courses
- Ensure all new students have a term 1 “light the fire” learning experience
- Help all new students develop a full-program learning and financial plan by end of term 1

Keep students on path

- Redesign advising to allow case management by metamajor
- Schedule courses and monitor students’ progress based on plans

Ensure students are learning along their path

- Introduce students to practice of the field through active learning in classes
- Ensure every student gains program-relevant experience



Rural Guided Pathways Project

Rural Guided Pathways Project Funders



Rural Guided Pathways Project Overview

This is a three-year project with a national cohort of 16 rural community colleges who will work with each other — and with community partners in their regions — to implement the guided pathways framework. The goals of the the project are to support participating colleges as they:

- Design and implement a better student experience at their colleges.**
- Collaborate with key local stakeholders to increase economic opportunity and partner on a cross-sector approach to implement guided pathways.**
- Adopt evidence-based reforms that will address inequities and lead to improved educational and workforce outcomes.**

What is innovative about this project?

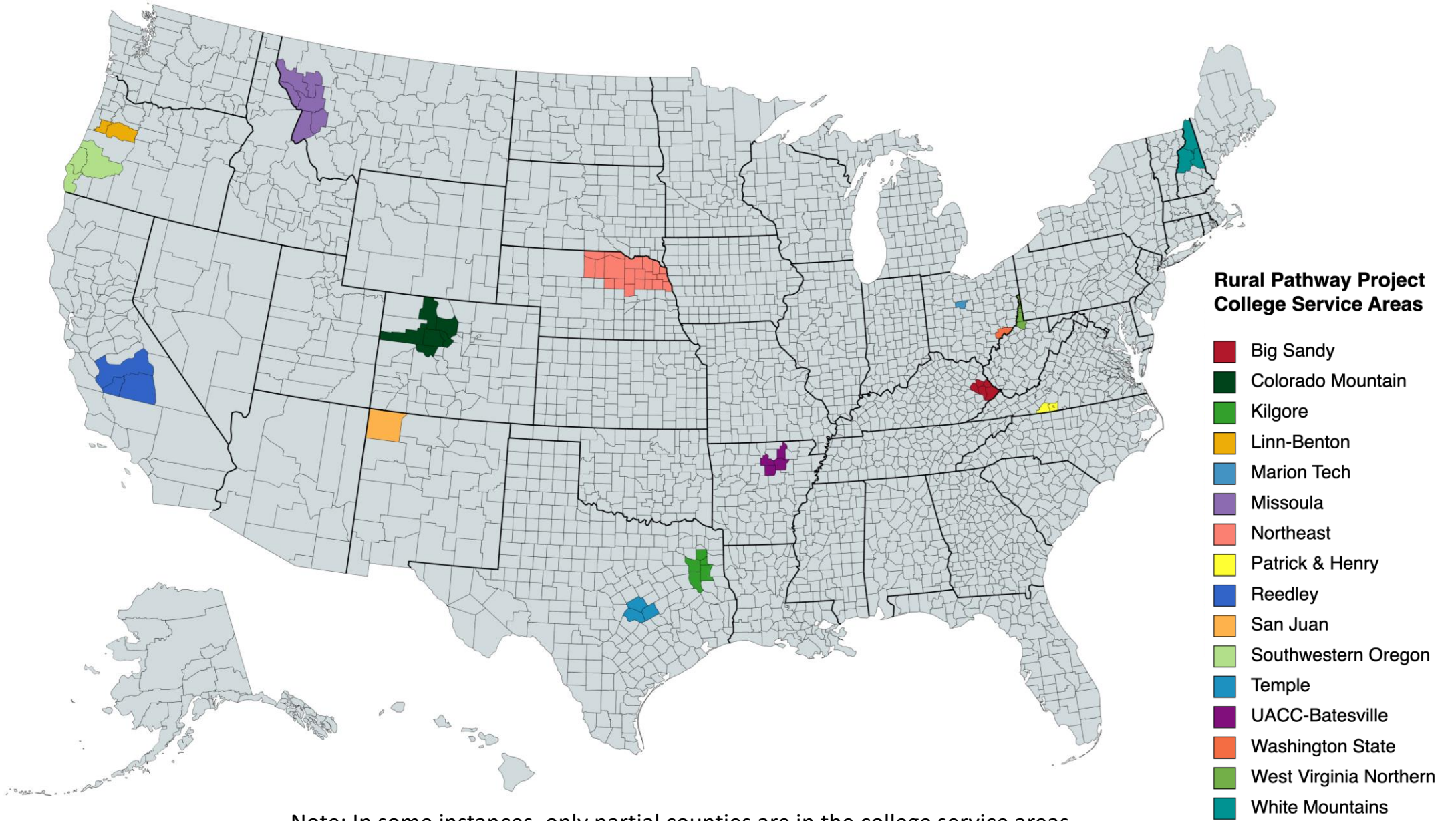
This project is the first of its kind in two ways:

- **Rural focus - This is the first time a pathways institute structure is focused specifically on the needs of rural institutions.**
- **Community partners - This is also the first time community partners are deeply embedded in pathways implementation.**

Rural Guided Pathways Project Colleges

- Big Sandy Community & Technical College (KY)
- Colorado Mountain College (CO)
- Kilgore College (TX)
- Linn-Benton Community College (OR)
- Marion Technical College (OH)
- Missoula College (MT)
- Northeast Community College (NE)
- Patrick & Henry Community College (VA)
- Reedley College (CA)
- San Juan College (NM)
- Southwestern Oregon CC (OR)
- Temple College (TX)
- University of Arkansas CC – Batesville (AR)
- Washington State Community College (OH)
- West Virginia Northern CC (WV)
- White Mountain Community College (NH)

Colleges Service Areas



Note: In some instances, only partial counties are in the college service areas

Project Professional Development and Support

Institutes

Six 2 ½ day institutes. Participating colleges will send an 8-person team to each institute.

Coaches & SMEs

Colleges will have an assigned coach and access to subject matter experts

Site Visits

Colleges will have one site visit from its rural pathways coach each year

Office Hours

Each college team will participate in virtual office hours per semester

Virtual Consultancies

Each college team will be invited to two virtual consultancies per semester

Topical Webinars

NCII and its partners will develop and host three topical webinars per year

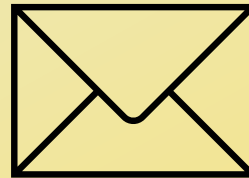
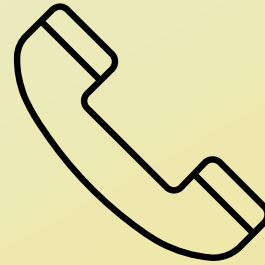
Contact Information

Email: Gretchen@ncii-improve.com

Project Website:

<https://ruralguidedpathways.org/>

804-316-4523



NATIONAL
CENTER FOR
INQUIRY &
IMPROVEMENT

