



INSTITUTE for EVIDENCE-BASED CHANGE
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Caring Campus

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Seven Community Colleges Selected for Caring Campus Initiative

Long Beach, Calif. - The Institute for Evidence-Based Change (IEBC) has selected seven community colleges to participate in the 2021 Caring Campus Initiative - Faculty.

Generous support from Ascendium Education Group has made possible the inclusion of these colleges who will focus on improving the ways faculty increase student success in their classrooms and beyond. Three institutions, which are part of the City Colleges of Chicago system, are new to Caring Campus. Four other colleges will embark on programs for faculty after implementing IEBC's Caring Campus for Staff in 2020.

The objective of Caring Campus is to increase student retention, success and completion in community colleges by creating and cultivating Caring Campus environments through intentional behaviors by faculty and staff that improve students' sense of caring and connectedness to the college.

Research has documented that students leave college because they do not feel connected to the institution (e.g., *Leaving College* by Tinto, 1993; *Relationship-Rich Education* by Felten & Lambert, 2020)). Caring Campus recognizes and leverages the value of connectedness to increase the likelihood that students will continue towards, and succeed in attaining, their educational goals.

As limitations on in-person classes continue due to the coronavirus pandemic, providing student support and instruction under the Caring Campus model, which has been adjusted for the virtual delivery of instruction and student services, has become a vital tool in increasing retention and student success.

"We hear a lot about meeting students where they are at," said IEBC President and CEO Brad Phillips. "Caring Campus supports colleges in engaging in specific behaviors to accomplish this in real and meaningful ways. Through this work, Caring Campus also is closing achievement gaps."

Community colleges new to the program are:

Kennedy-King College, Chicago, IL
Olive-Harvey College, Chicago, IL
Wilbur Wright College, Chicago, IL

Community colleges continuing with the program and now adding the faculty component after completing IEBC Caring Campus work with professional staff are:

Central Arizona College, Coolidge, AZ
San Antonio College, San Antonio, TX
Stark State College, North Canton, OH
West Valley College, Saratoga, CA

Faculty and staff interactions with students can set the stage for successful enrollment, persistence, and completion. It is particularly important for students from historically underserved populations, students less familiar with college, non-majority students, students from low-income households, and first-generation students to feel welcome and that they belong in college.

This grant also supports IEBC's work with the Community College Research Center (CCRC), Teachers College, Columbia University, to better understand how the initiative works to change college culture and improve student outcomes.

About the Institute for Evidence-Based Change

IEBC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping education stakeholders — community colleges, universities, K-12 school systems, employers and others — use coaching, collaboration and data to make informed decisions and craft solutions that improve practice and dramatically increase student success. We partner with our clients to successfully implement customized evidence-based solutions to today's most pressing issues. Learn more about IEBC at www.iebcnow.org.

About Ascendium Education Group

Ascendium Education Group is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to helping people reach the education and career goals that matter to them. Ascendium invests in initiatives designed to increase the number of students from low-income backgrounds who complete postsecondary degrees, certificates and workforce training programs, with an emphasis on first-generation students, incarcerated adults, rural community members, students of color and veterans. Ascendium's work identifies, validates and expands best practices to promote large-scale change at the institutional, system and state levels, with the intention of elevating opportunity for all. For more information, visit <https://www.ascendiumphilanthropy.org>.