Caring Campus Faculty and Guided Pathways

The Institute for Evidence-Based Change’s Caring Campus Faculty initiative provides support for Guided Pathways implementation by addressing student connectedness issues in the classroom, which support student success efforts.

**Pillar One: Clarify the Path**
A clear path to student academic goals helps all students, but especially first time in college students, feel welcome. Removing jargon, ensuring there are no surprises, making expectations clear.

**Pillar Two: Enter the Path**
Feeling connected from the first day of class is essential if students are to persist. Learning student’s names and meeting with them are simple classroom behaviors that facilitate feelings of connectedness among students. Feeling connected in the classroom increases course retention and success rates.

**Pillar Three: Stay on the Path**
Students leave or stop out for myriad reasons. But research shows that non-academic reasons are front-and-center for many of them. It is essential for college faculty to understand the full and complicated lives students lead off-campus. Faculty become Compassionate Coaches by not penalizing students when an assignment or assessment is incomplete due to a life event, and maintain student learning as the target. Early and frequent assessments, another Caring Campus classroom behavior, help students gauge their progress and seek assistance when needed.

**Pillar Four: Ensure Learning**
Many of the Caring Campus classroom behaviors noted above work to ensure learning. Students need to be engaged if they are to learn. By making a connection to a faculty member, students work hard to please that faculty member by coming to class, turning in assignments, and being present for assessments. This engagement increases course retention and success rates for all students.