



Pathways to Results News

March 2015

Using Data to Close Equity Gaps and Open Windows for Opportunity

April 2, 2015

10 a.m. - 2p.m.

Rend Lake College Marketplace

321 Potomac Blvd

Mt. Vernon, IL

There is no cost to attend this workshop

To register, follow this [link](#). **Registration closes on March 27, 2015.**

The ***Pair and Share Pathways to Results: Using Data to Close Equity Gaps and Open Windows for Opportunity*** workshop will provide resources and the opportunity to learn with fellow educators about how to use student- and program-level data to identify and close equity gaps in programs of study. *Pair and Share* facilitators will discuss strategies for mixed methods inquiry and for using identified outcomes gaps to move toward solutions and improved opportunities for all students using your students' and institutions' strengths.

This workshop is open to individuals and teams from across the P-20 educational pathway. Please contact Edmund Graham, at egraha3@illinois.edu, with questions about *Pair and Share* registration. Registration closes on March 27, 2015.

Resources Now Available from Scaling Up Pathways to Results Conference

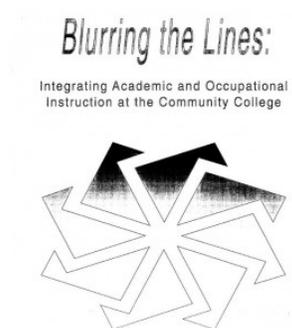
Over 150 educational leaders from across the state and spanning educational sectors came together on Tuesday, March 10th for the 2015 Scaling Up Pathways to Results



conference *Advancing Equity: Many Pathways, One Goal*. **[Conference materials, including the program and presenter slides, can be accessed here.](#)**

This conference focused on the many ways that emerging “pathways” and “pathway thinking” can help P-20 educational leaders and partners construct, evaluate, and improve programs of study and student experiences in order to promote equitable outcomes.

Featured PTR Blog Posts



[Expanding the Pathways to Results Lens: Learning from Blurring the Lines 18 Years Later](#)

Within my first month as a newcomer to Illinois I heard more than one person mention a “Blurring the Lines” report when discussing practices to support student learning in career and technical education programs. After some digging, I managed to locate a copy of this report ([here](#)). Written in 1997 by the Illinois Task

Force on Academic/Occupational Integration, this publication’s full title is *Blurring the Lines: Integrating Academic and Occupational Instruction at the Community College*. I found that although this report is 18 years old, it is also completely relevant to our work today.

Blurring the Lines mirrors national conversations about the quality and equity of workforce preparation; “stackable” credentials that lead students from a certificate in a technical field, to an associate’s, and finally to a bachelor’s degree and beyond; and the value of high-impact practices touted by organizations like the Center for Community College Student Engagement or the Association of American Colleges & Universities. The report details specific practices that can improve student engagement and meaningful learning in community college career and technical programs through integration of technical learning with academic content, team learning, or work/community-based experiences. [Read more.](#)

[Insights from Scaling Up: Uniting Many Points of Light](#)

One of the many highlights of OCCRL’s *2015 Scaling Up Pathways to Results* conference was the afternoon plenary titled *Using High-Impact Practices to Strengthen Student Transitions and Success*. Panelists shared their



own promising practices and strategies for assessment, as well as the critical cross-sector partnerships that have produced meaningful results for underserved students experiencing a broad range of transitions, whether from secondary to community college, community college to university, or secondary to university... While Dr. Applegate reflected on the strengths of these evidence-based initiatives, he also observed what many of us have come to realize—"there's not a problem in higher education that hasn't been solved somewhere..." So, how do we bring these solutions to scale for all students? [Read more.](#)

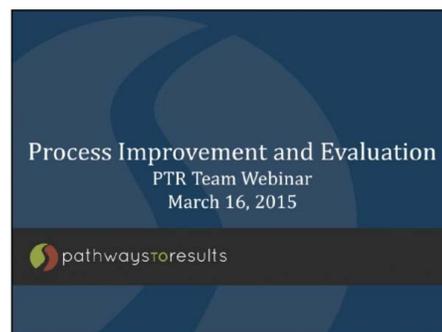


[Perspectives on Pathways at OCCRL's Scaling Up Conference](#)

On Tuesday March 10, 2015 the Office of Community College Research and Leadership (OCCRL) and Pathways Resource Center (PTR) held its annual Scaling Up Pathways to Results Conference. Vickie Choitz, Associate Director of the Economic Opportunities Program at the Aspen Institute opened with her keynote address entitled: *Raising Floors and Building Ladders: Why We Need Both Paths to Achieve Equitable Outcomes*. Highlighting the need for both educational opportunities and career pathways, Choitz reminded the audience of the need for livable wages in generating opportunities out of poverty, stating, "we may succeed in getting students through career pathways, but what is waiting for them on the other side people can't climb ladders on shaky floors." [Read more.](#)

PTR Process Webinars hosted by Debra Bragg, Director OCCRL

Slides and Podcast available from the March Process Improvement & Evaluation webinar. This interactive webinar provided all Pathways to Results (PTR) team members with new resources for identifying and selecting evidence-based process improvements and deeper guidance through the Process Improvement piece of the PTR process.



Registration is now open for the year's final PTR Webinar on Review and Reflection. This webinar will take place on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, 1:30-2:30pm. All current PTR team leaders, team members, and past teams are welcome to attend. Click [here to register.](#)

To sign up for notices about these webinars, please email Edmund Graham at egraha3@illinois.edu.

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