

Breaking Through

Peer Learning Meeting • Focusing on Impact
Portland, Oregon • April 25 and 26, 2007

AGENDA

Goals:

- Make connections across colleges
- Share lessons learned, challenges, and successes
- Deepen content around our 4 key high leverage strategies
- Develop foundation for institutionalizing Breaking Through at each college

Wednesday April 25

10:00 – 3:00 Pre-conference Activity: Site Visit to PCC's Cascade Campus

3:00 – 3:30 Welcome/Meeting Orientation: Mayfair Ballroom

- Welcome: Nan Poppe
- Overview of Agenda and Materials: Amy Robins
- Breaking Through Staff and Roles: Jim Jacobs
- Four High Leverage Strategies: Judy Taylor

3:30 – 5:00 College Exchange Session: Mayfair Ballroom

Opportunity for colleges to interact around common projects, challenges and innovations. Please see instructions in the binder.

- Group I (3:30 - 4:00)
- Group II (4:00 - 4:30)
- Group III (4:30 – 5:00)

5:00 – 7:00 Reception: Crystal Ballroom

Thursday April 26

8:00–8:30 **Breakfast/Overview of the Day:** Mayfair Ballroom

8:30–10:00 **Concurrent Content Session I: Support Services**

Kent Financial Aid Paper Discussion

This session will review findings from recent research into state policies that improve the ability of adult learners to pay for postsecondary education and skill development. The research will examine policies that expand on the traditional sources of financial aid, as well as policies that encourage alternative financing strategies for workers who study. Session participants will be asked to comment on strategies for implementing these policies more broadly.

Content Lead: Heath Prince – Room: Kent

8:30–10:00 **Concurrent Content Session I: Institutional Alignment**

Mayfair
Ballroom Using Data to Sustain the Initiative in Your Institution

This session introduces participants to the effective use of data on their programs to build a case for sustaining them – what to collect, how to present it, and how to make the case to particular audiences. Staff from Durham Technical Community College (NC) will lead off the discussion with a short presentation on how they employed data to win college-wide support for transforming a major college program. Dr. Peter Ewell, who is advising the Breaking Through initiative, will then lead a discussion about how colleges can apply lessons such as this to promote innovation and sustaining of effective programs.

Content Lead: Peter Ewell – Room: Mayfair Ballroom

Windsor Connecting Breaking Through Students to Professional and Technical Degree Programs

Breaking Through students often begin their college experience in Developmental Education, Adult Basic Education or English for Speakers of Other Languages classes. For these students, making the transition into professional and technical degree programs can be challenging. What strategies have colleges used to help these students make the connection to degree programs? What do we know that works and what do we know that doesn't work?

Content Leads: Ruth Brancard, Cynthia Zafft – Room: Windsor

8:30–10:00 Concurrent Content Session I: Accelerate the Pace of Learning

Brighton Strategies for Accelerating the Pace of Learning: A Round Table Discussion

Breaking Through colleges are experimenting with a variety of approaches to cutting down the time it takes student to complete coursework and obtain a degree. In this session, colleges will share their ideas on what’s working and their challenges. The exchange will help define what is meant by Accelerate the Pace of Learning and will contribute to a written product on the topic.

Facilitator: Kristina Cowan – Room: Brighton

Cambridge/
Oxford Understanding the Process for Contextualization

In this session, several colleges will present the processes they have used to contextualize and/or integrate technical and academic content at different levels (both pre-college and college level work). Breaking Through participants are encouraged to bring their own examples to share (including written resources to “show”) along with their questions. The session will highlight what has worked well and what is not working.

Content Leads: Pat Phillips, Mary Cottier and Renita Mitchell – Room: Cambridge/Oxford

10:00–10:15 Break: Mayfair Ballroom

10:15–11:45 Concurrent Content Session II: Institutional Alignment

Mayfair
Ballroom Sharpening Tools for Data Collection and Analysis

Many colleges have requested assistance in strategies for collecting and using data. In response, Dr. Peter Ewell of NCHEMS has drafted a data “toolkit,” recommended a common core of data to collect, and produced “maps” of the data collected by the Leadership Colleges on students participating in Breaking Through. To ensure that these tools are relevant to Breaking Through colleges, we are inviting a final round of comment and recommendations. Participants will be asked to examine Dr. Ewell’s resources beforehand, and be prepared to offer thoughtful input in support of creating final drafts. In addition, they will discuss how these tools might best be applied to their own programs and students for purposes of sustainability.

Content Lead: Peter Ewell – Room: Mayfair Ballroom

10:15–11:45 Concurrent Content Session II: Institutional Alignment (continued)

Windsor Connecting Breaking Through Students to Professional and Technical Degree Programs

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Content Leads: Cynthia Zafft, Elaine Baker – Room: Windsor

Brighton Speaking of Work: Serving English Language Learners in Occupational Education

Drawing from the experiences of the City College of San Francisco and Cerritos College, this session will engage Breaking Through participants in a discussion about developing programs in community colleges to help English language learners access language and occupational skills. Participants will explore strategies for identifying the needs of different English language learner populations, and for developing English language proficiency in an occupational context. Participants will also focus on the special support service needs of English language learners and the challenges and opportunities to helping them advance in community college career and technical education (CTE) certificate and degree programs. Finally, participants will share ideas about how to make the case for serving English language learners in their own institutions, obtaining the resources to help them do it, and strategies for institutionalizing these programs.

Content Leads: Nick Kremer, Phyllis McGuire – Room: Brighton

10:15–11:45 Concurrent Content Session II: Labor Market Pay-Off

Kent Getting Employers to Incentivize Learning: Strategies for Achieving Labor-Market Pay-offs for Breaking Through Students

For most of our Breaking Through participants, working is a necessity. Getting on a long-term educational pathway is an add-on to an already demanding schedule. What can employers do to help employees stay on an educational pathway while working? How can colleges work with employers to encourage adoption of such strategies and policies?

Content Leads: Nan Poppe, Paula Norby, Bill Schaffer – Room: Kent

10:15–11:45 Concurrent Content Session II: Labor Market Pay-Off (continued)

Cambridge/
Oxford Incorporating Employer Expectations into College Workforce Programs:
Lessons from Community College/COB partnerships

Savvy community-based workforce providers have found that success rates are much higher when employers' expectations are incorporated into the program design (e.g., the necessity of showing up on time to be admitted to class). However, such practices sometimes conflict with community colleges' commitment to open enrollment. The two CBO/community college partnerships in Breaking Through will share their insights and challenges and look for input from participants.

Content Leads: Keith Marler, Anne Keeney – Room: Cambridge/Oxford

12:00 PM Lunch and Speaker: Parliament Ballroom

Maria Flynn, Administrator, Employment and Training Administration,
US Department of Labor

Introduction by Richard Kazis, Jobs for the Future

Concurrent Content Session III

1:30-3:00 Topical Exchanges

Mayfair
Ballroom Participants will choose from a variety of topics for small group discussions. The focus will be on exchanging ideas and experiences around key challenges.

Room: Mayfair Ballroom

1:15-3:15 The SJI/PCC Support Services Training Model

Kent Based on a pilot project at Portland Community College and significant input from PCC's staff, the Seattle Jobs Initiative is developing a training package for college-based providers of support services to adult/non-traditional students. Here's your chance to experience the training and provide input into the next draft. Learn about the training model by participating in a mock training session. Provide input on the curriculum to the SJI/PCC team.

Content Leads: Gloria Hatcher-Mays, Dely Judal – Room: Kent

3:00–3:15 Break: Mayfair Ballroom

3:15–4:00 **Report from Evaluators:** Mayfair Ballroom

4:00–5:00 **Products, Progress, Planning and Promotions:** Mayfair Ballroom

5:00 **Conclusion:** Mayfair Ballroom

7:00 **Evening Get Together** (optional)

Join Breaking Through colleges at Henry's 12th Street Tavern (10 NW 12th Street) for informal gathering. Directions from the hotel to the tavern at registration.