



# Collaborating toward Student Success: Keys For College & Career Readiness

February 5, 2016

# The Four Keys: Prepared Students Will...



**think** deeply about what they are doing  
**know** contextually why they learn  
**act** purposefully to achieve their goals  
**go** successfully through life's transitions



**Problem Formulation**  
**Research**  
**Interpretation**  
**Communication**  
**Precision & Accuracy**

**Structures of Knowledge**  
**Attitudes toward Learning**  
**Technical Knowledge**  
**& Skills**

**THINK**

**KNOW**

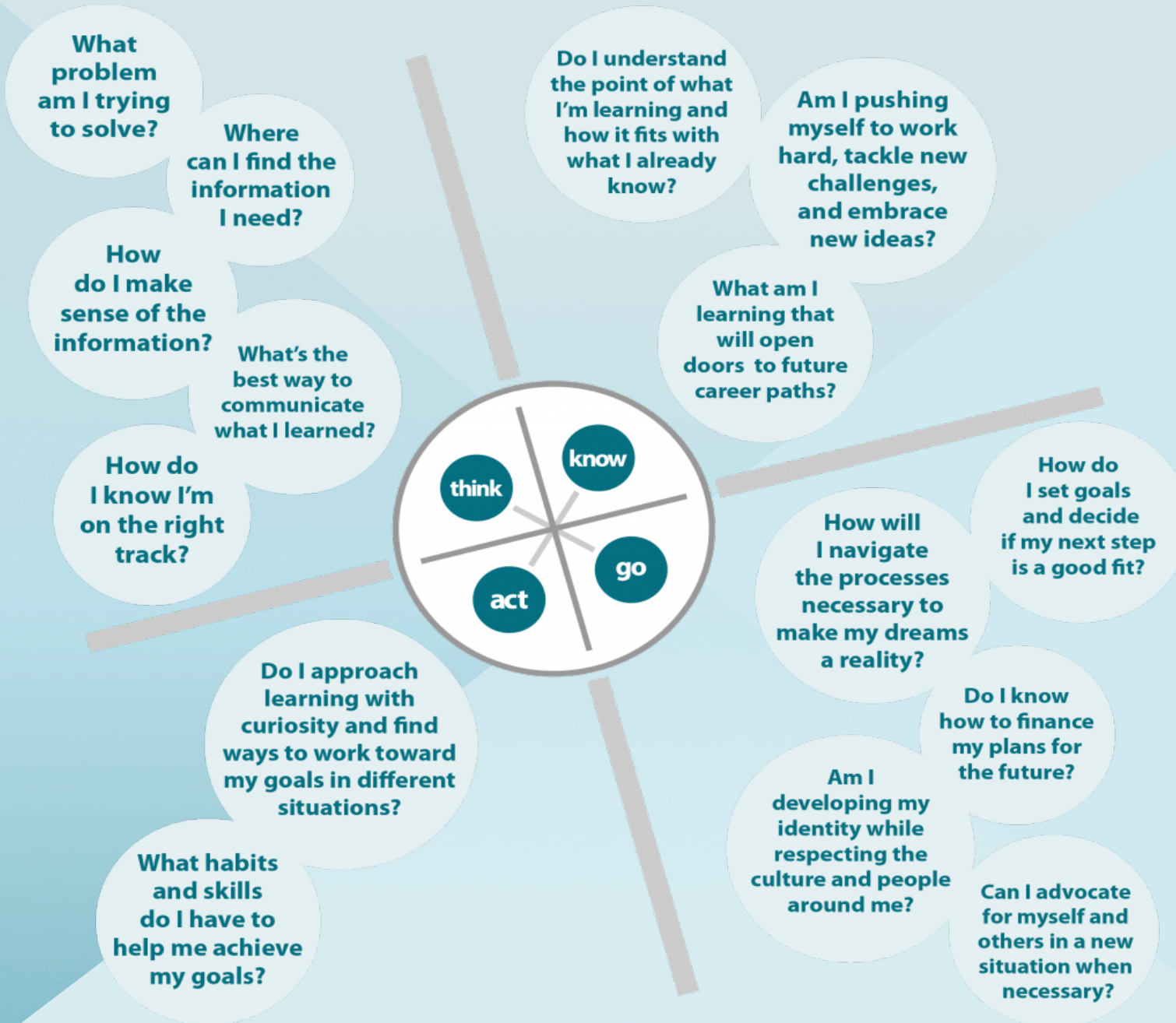
**ACT**

**GO**

**Ownership of Learning**  
**Learning Techniques**

**Contextual**  
**Procedural**  
**Financial**  
**Cultural**  
**Personal**

**Questions  
successful  
learners should  
continually ask  
themselves.**





# Expressing and Assessing Student Learning at Valencia College

## THINK

Think clearly, critically, and creatively.  
Analyze, synthesize, integrate, and evaluate.



## VALUE

Make reasoned value judgments and responsible commitments.



## COMMUNICATE

Communicate with different audiences using varied means.



## ACT

Act purposefully, reflectively, and responsibly.



**“The curriculum is the collective wisdom and expertise of the faculty about what is important for students to learn, and that places the curriculum front and center in any reform effort, all other reform efforts are piecemeal practices and programs dancing around the heart of the educational enterprise—the curriculum.”**

**- Terry O’Banion**

O’Banion, T. (2015). Curriculum: The missing element in reform. Learning Abstracts, 18(9).



# Steps to Design a Curriculum Alignment Program

## 1. Identify the problem to solve

What is the immediate, mid-term, and long-term problem you're trying to solve?

## 2. Select a scope and focus

Alignment work is never finished. Select a beginning scope that is achievable and builds program champions.

## 3. Identify inputs and resources

E.g., faculty/staff time, financial support, IR measures, etc.

## 4. Sequence the work

Order the work to create a solid plan.

## 5. Get funding

Steps 1-4 are the foundation of a Logic Model that can be used for US Dept. of Ed grant program funding!

# Real-World Application

Chris Kuberski, current Executive Vice President at Highland Community College, shares her experience implementing a curriculum alignment program as the Vice President of Instruction at Rend Lake College.

## Partnerships

- **Shared Vision - smooth transitions**
- **Shared Goal - student success**
- **Shared Resources – dual credit, curriculum alignment software, norming sessions, etc.**



# Real-World Application

Chris Kuberski, current Executive Vice President at Highland Community College, shares her experience implementing a curriculum alignment program as the Vice President of Instruction at Rend Lake College.

## Patience

- Investment of Time
- Investment of Resources

## Persistence

- Project evolves
- Stay the Course!

# Authentic Collaboration Vignette

- **Scenarios Learning®** is a case-based, faculty development program used online or in traditional workshop settings at numerous community colleges across the country, including award-winning Valencia College.
- We'll join a scene from the Pathways at Mystic Lake vignette, a course focused on building strategic pathways to, within, and beyond the community college.



# Mystic Lake Characters

- **Jackie** is currently a new business and economics instructor. She was formerly a banker with now bankrupt Gateway Financial.
- **Amy** is a student services/student success staff member—the gadfly of the college.
- **Stephanie** is an accounting professor who can be quite pessimistic and cynical.
- **Diane** is a statistics professor who provides some neutrality and middle ground to the group.

# Too Many Choices

**“The number of complex program options students must choose from...can cause decision paralysis, arbitrary decision outcomes, and dissatisfaction.**

*The Structure of Student Decision Making at Community Colleges*, Judith Scott-Clayton, CCRC Brief, January, 2011

*Bailey, T., Jaggars, J., and Jenkins, D. (2015). Redesigning America's Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success. Harvard University Press.*



# Authentic Collaboration

✓ Historic disconnect between educational entities creates barriers and disjointed experiences for students

✓ Collaboration Continuum

Compliance → cooperation → “authentic collaboration

- “Local partnerships ... vertical teams [can] work to transcend boundaries, increase alignment, and narrow the gaps between the secondary and postsecondary systems.”
- “What needs to be emphasized ... is that this is a systems alignment issue; no group or institution is solely responsible for creating the problems, and no one group or educational entity can solve the problems individually.”

# Table Discussion Questions

- Does your college pride itself on the variety of course options offered to students? Do you think the cafeteria-type course catalog at Mystic Lake impacts student success and persistence?
- Are you ready to collaborate with teachers in your local school district? What do you think you might do to make that collaboration work?

# The Secrets to Success

## Learning-centered culture

- ❖ A learning-center college views all members as learners, faculty, staff, and students alike.

## Foster partnerships & collaborate

- ❖ Quote from Chris Kuberski: Instead of saying, "I cannot do the work because I don't have the partnerships." Say, "What do I need to do to build the partnerships so that I can do the work?"

## Long obedience

- ❖ "The best companies never transform to greatness in one fell swoop. There is no single defining action, no grand program, no one killer innovation, no solitary lucky break, no miracle moment. Sustainable transformations follow a predictable pattern of build-up and breakthrough. Like pushing on a giant heavy flywheel, it takes a lot of effort to get things moving at all, but with persistent pushing in a consistent direction over a long period of time, the flywheel builds momentum."

-Jim Collins, From Good to Great



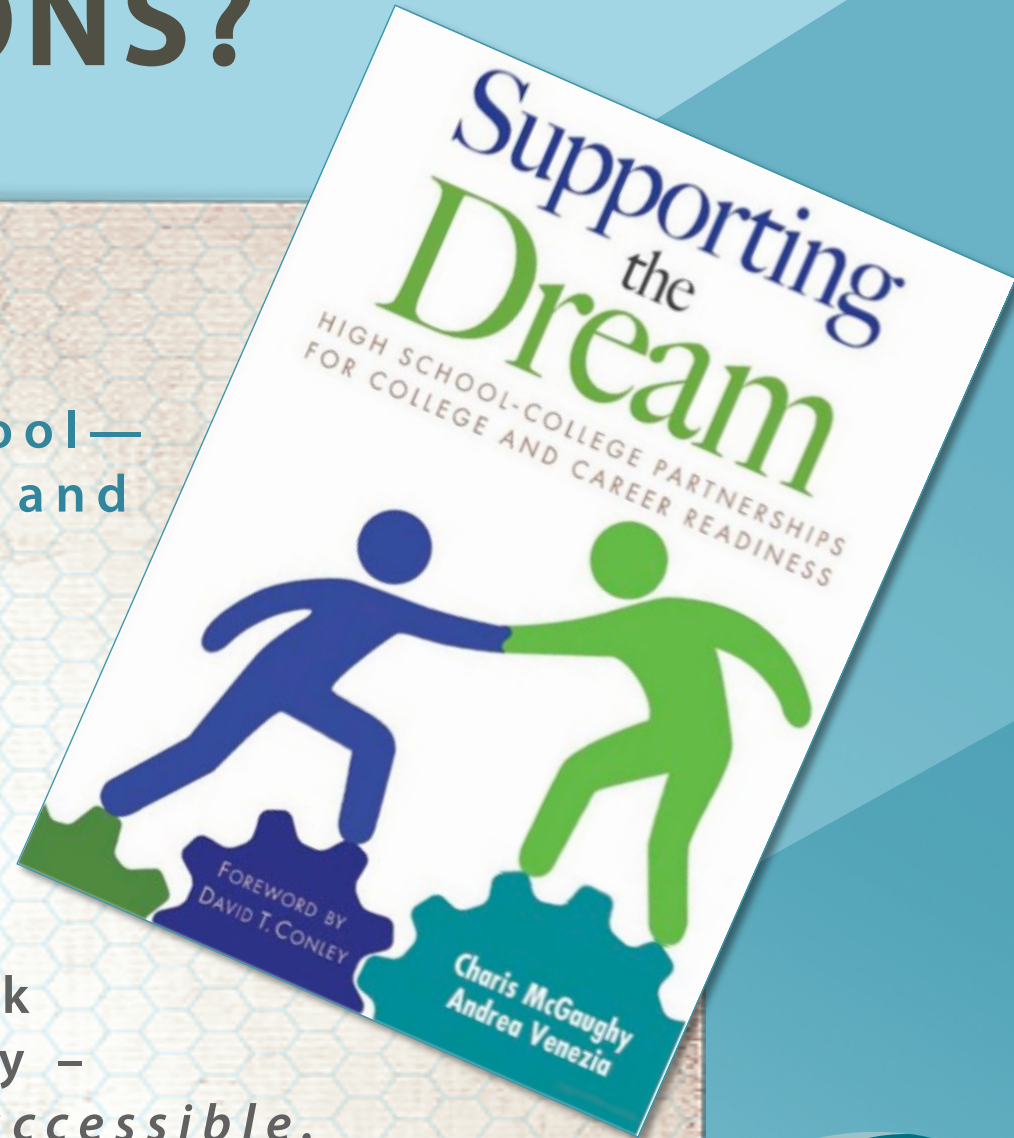
# QUESTIONS?

A Key Resource:

**Supporting the Dream: High School—  
College Partnerships for College and  
Career Readiness**

By Charis McGaughy and  
Andrea Venezia

Based on EPIC work  
around the country –  
*it's practical and accessible.*



KNOW

GO