

THE SEAMLESS TRANSFER PATHWAY DESIGN CHALLENGE

The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation has funded the Education Design Lab to lead an intensive one-year Design Challenge beginning Fall, 2017. Four pairs of two- and four-year institutions will develop customized sets of tested interventions that can dramatically move the needle on bachelor's completion for community college students.

Teams from each institution will participate in three national cohort convenings and another three on-site design sessions. They will be provided access to subject matter experts, coaches and design specialists to help redesign the students' journey from the student's point of view via a structured process for developing transformative, not incremental, solutions. Pilots will launch in Fall, 2018, and results tracked for the next six years.

Background

Research shows that 80 percent of students who enroll in one of our nation's community colleges every year express an intent to complete a bachelor's degree at a four-year institution. Yet, in the end, only 25 percent make the leap to a four-year school within five years, and only 17 percent complete a four-year degree within 6 years of transferring¹. This is a national failure. In an economy where the lifetime earnings premium for four-year degree holders is still over \$1 million compared to a high school graduate (\$500,000 more than an associate degree) and nearly three quarters of new jobs created since 2008 have gone to bachelor's degree holders², the need to support more students in their attainment goal is more critical than ever.

Developing more "seamless" transfer pathways between community colleges and four-year institutions is one key to improving those attainment rates. Many discrete interventions have been tested and validated over the past decade; it's time to look at how combining these and other concepts into a single multi-faceted intervention, grounded in the student experience, can drive dramatic change in attainment rates.

About Us

The Education Design Lab is a 501c3 non-profit consultancy that helps design, test, and implement new post-secondary models that address the rapidly changing economy and emerging technology opportunities. We strive to demonstrate where technology, learning science, rigor and design can improve opportunity for learners and incumbent workers who are struggling in any way (affordability, access, relevance) to maximize their potential in the current post-secondary system.

We bring the latest in design and innovation tools, and a team of educators, designers and innovators, to identify the best solutions for our partners. We work across disciplines and sectors with entrepreneurs, innovators, institutions, non-profits, foundations and corporations. We bring significant experience managing national and local learning cohorts, working with organizations such as the Lumina Foundation, UNCF, American Council on Education, Credly, and the Academy for Innovative Higher Education Leadership.

What do participants receive?

Winners of the RFP process will receive the following:

- 1.** Participation in a year-long structured design process led by design specialists from the Education Design Lab
- 2.** Access to nationally renowned experts on transfer pathway models, stakeholder engagement, value proposition development, financial modeling, and other relevant topics
- 3.** A dedicated coach to work with your team on designing and implementing a multi-faceted intervention
- 4.** All expense paid participation in three national cohort convenings to work in tandem with leaders from six other institutions from around the country
- 5.** Three on campus design sessions for up to 30 college administrators led by the Education Design Lab
- 6.** Third party evaluation of outcomes over multiple years
- 7.** Positioning as market leader in higher education innovation through media opportunities and conference participation

What's my commitment?

Participating institutions must commit to the following:

- 1.** A joint working group between a two year and four year institution
- 2.** A goal of 30% growth in bachelor attainment for those students entering community college
- 3.** Commitment of school teams to participate in two off-site national convenings and three on-site design sessions during the 2017-18 school year.
- 4.** Willingness to launch a pilot program for entering community college students in fall 2018
- 5.** Willingness to allow evaluation of the cohort outcomes until 2024

What is this going to cost my institution?

All costs—travel, hotel accommodations, coaches, access to experts—will be covered by the Education Design Lab, through the generous support of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation.

Who gets to participate?

The Lab is overseeing an RFP process that will commence on **May 16th, 2017 and close on June 30st, 2017**. Invitations to the winning institutions will be issued in August 2017. Proposals will require joint commitments from a two year and four-year institution willing to work together to develop cross-boundary solutions. Final decisions will favor pairs of institutions ready to push the envelope in approaches to improving bachelor's attainment for community college students. The Lab will be looking for potential partner colleges whose institutional vision, mission, and goals align with that of the project, including demonstrations of institutional readiness and a track record for innovative projects. Established articulation agreements is a requirement and evidence of joint projects will be highly valued.

For further questions or if you are interested in applying, please contact Binh Thuy Do at SeamlessTransfer@eddesignlab.org.