

## History of College Success

During the summer of 2005 the City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) embarked on a monumental project to recalibrate the curriculum of the City Colleges to be more reflective of the 21 century globalized society. The motivating factor was to better prepare CCC students to be competitive educationally as well as in the workforce.

The Recalibration project was composed of faculty, select staff, and administrators. After defining the Recalibration process for conducting the reviews, three areas were identified for closer analysis. The three areas included: Developmental Education, Adult Education, and Student Support Services. After exploring Best Practices around the country in relation to these three areas, and reviewing award winning models for effective programs, many recommendations emerged for implementation at the City Colleges.

An Orientation Task Force was appointed to design an Orientation course. The Task Force consisted of faculty and administrators. Co-chaired by Dr. Pervez Rahman - Vice President at Truman College, and Cynthia D. Armster – Associate Vice Chancellor, the Task Force reviewed various models of successful Orientation courses. Due to Dr. Rahman’s affiliation with DePaul University and its award winning nationally recognized Freshman Year Experience program, this model was adopted for CCC’s College Success course framework.

The newly designed CSS course was vetted and approved by the District’s Faculty Council as well as CCC’s administration for a 1-year pilot to begin summer 2007. Faculty and staff selected to teach the course were required to attend 18 hours of training to become certified to teach the CSS course via the College Success Seminar Institute (CSSI). Three colleges piloted the course in the summer of 2007, with a total of five offering the course in the fall of 2007. By 2012 six of the seven colleges offered multiple sections

In 2012, the customized textbook featuring CCC students and specific resources were introduced. Faculty members were approved to teach course for load, and the College Success Scholarship was established. By spring 2014 all City College campuses offer the course. College Success it is now the “base camp” for Guided Pathways to Success (GPS) where students engage in the following modules:

- Self-Assessment
- Career Guidance
- Advising Appointments
- Commit to Complete a Pathway
- Transfer Research
- Education Plan

In the Fall 2014 semester, College success will be offered at every college with more than 150 sections. The course will be the established first steps in making successful students who have a higher term to term return and credit completion rates.