

I Want You to Know

NADE President Robin Ozz

It takes courage to let go of the familiar and embrace the new....

And in so many respects, that is where we are in our developmental education world—a brand new world. Our comfort zones, in many cases, are gone. Many of us are battling for funds, or to hang on to programs that no longer make sense to administration, or to justify what we know works as surely as we know the sun rises in the East. Are you ready to embrace the reforms that are upon us? Are you excited about the changes that are coming or already here? You should be because you now have the chance to be a model educator for your institution.

Let's Take *Guided Pathways* For Example

Guided Pathways is one of the major reforms sweeping the nation. Begun as a national initiative in 2011 by Completion by Design through a Gates Foundation grant, it since has been adopted and adapted by several other organizations such as Complete College America. Unfortunately, it also has been lumped into myriad reforms such as co-requisite remediation, 15-to-Finish, and so on.

I say “unfortunately” because Pathways is an excellent reform that could have been/should have been a NADE initiative. Completion by Design stated, “A *Guided Pathway* integrates academic and student services together in a coherent and intentional system of curricular and co-curricular experiences that match a student’s interests and goals, and better help him or her for success in a rapidly changing global environment” (completionbydesign.org). This integration of academic and student services is exactly what we have advocated for years; it is a good thing that this is happening for students.

This Is a Gift!

We should not only embrace this change but take leadership of this and other initiatives that we know are based on sound adult learning theory and practices. We are the experts. Who better than developmental educators to show people how to integrate student and academic services? We have the opportunity here to make all of our colleagues developmental educators while safeguarding students from potentially harmful practices. We should be looking for opportunities such as this to share our knowledge of how students learn and what adult learners need with our colleagues who are content-experts only. We are the leaders, and this age of reform and change is the perfect opportunity for us to lead.

Go Change Your World!

Developmental educators do not have to feel victim in this age of reform. When initiatives come to you, research them, know them, and filter them through your knowledge of what is good for students and what is not. Advocate for those such as Guided Pathways which help; lobby against those

that will do harm. Be a leader and a role model for your colleagues as a believer in and a supporter of student success. And know that NADE is always here to help you.

Enjoy your summer, and we hope to see you in Livonia Michigan, July 28, for the 2nd Annual McCabe Conference. Register here <https://thenade.org/Events-page>

Robin