Mount SAC Visit - Comments

1.         What did you learn from Mount SAC that was new for you?

It was obvious that incorporating student input with that summer cohort of students was very illuminating, and it sounds like it’s worth emulating for us.

The college is very focused with its Pathways on CTE--so I would think Bakersfield may be a better model. At least I didn't feel Bakersfield was focused solely on CTE as I did at SAC.

Mt. SAC did not hire a full-time facilitator, but relied upon its existing faculty and staff to launch their version of Guided Pathways.

I learned that MC does some of Mt. SACs Pathways in our GPS program: summer connections via Bridges and orientations.  The MC Outreach group also meets students in the spring at the local high schools, another part of Mt. SACs Pathways.  The grouping of majors into buckets was new to me.

I've learned that the first year college students needed more guidance in picking their classes correctly.

The very systematic approach, rolling out the program in pieces and having faculty lead each piece of that. It really is too big of a program for a small cohort of people to spend a year or so setting it all up and then just dropping it on the campus.

No major curriculum changes that need state, a creditor, or federal approval. A lot of counseling support is needed for mapping. Touch points are important for remedial students to motivate them to reach the guided pathway. Incorporate the career & transfer on the front end, sooner than later. Mountie fast track orientation 2-3 hours by student mentors sounds fabulous.

I have not heard too much about Guided Pathways since I wasn’t able to attend the last PD speaker.  So to me most of this was new.  I’m excited that we are trying to make it easier for the student to reach their goals!

It seems to me that what we're really talking about here is a simplification in the way we conceptualize and present information to students so that they can understand and work with it more easily. That is, it looks like a display issue rather than any real structural change. The good news is, that's going to be more palatable to faculty than some huge cultural shift. We're talking about marketing, not transformation.

2.         What questions about Guided Pathways do you now have?

What boxes do we need to check to receive that $150M goodie bag?  Is that something we access via State Chancellors Office?

Obviously very different student bodies regarding student needs. I think that we need to have a clear understanding of who are students are, what they goals are and where there are gaps in retention and success.

How do we begin to implement that here at MC?  How can we capture our undecided students?  How can we make this work for our transfer students?

Can we use our College Strategies classes as a way to create cohorts of students all interested in similar majors?

How will Moorpark College integrate the Guided Pathways Program?

Mt. Sac does not currently incorporate any sort of cohort model from the student side (understandable considering the size of their student body). But I think we should use a cohort model at Moorpark, leveraging the GPS and College Strategies programs we already are setting up. So I would like to learn more about how to make Pathways work with the cohort model.
Read all the information, think about it, examine for further questions & report out summary

3.         What’s the next step?  (For you in your role on campus?  For the college as a whole?)

My next step is to plan with Jennifer on how to facilitate the discussion in EdCAP effectively.  I’d really like to ensure that EdCAP is not primarily an informational meeting place, but for us to come up with solutions and have informed discussion about how we may implement Pathways (and reasons why we may need to slow down, as Mt. SAC did).

The trip was useful in terms of seeing what they wished they had known prior to starting.  I think that's the most important thing to take away from the trip for me.  I learned you cannot just start until we have identified the areas that need work and know WHY those areas need work.

I think we are well on our way to next steps. This Fall semester is the right window for dialogue, and we have scheduled a Town Hall meeting to that end. This dialogue should be followed by implementation in the Spring semester, through the contract we signed with Rob Johnstone that takes effect January 1, 2018.

I think the next step is getting a group of folks together to start brainstorming as to how we can roll this out on our campus and how it can help our students.  Perhaps doing the summits and making sure that as many people as possible are involved on campus.

We need to gather and let faculty try to map a path to a major with the resources students use.

We need to have Jill McCall and Comm Studies show us their "Pathway" again.

We need to gather faculty and students to create meta-majors from the list students choose from.

I think that the GPS Program that we have in school is a great program that we could look into.

From the PD side, we can start doing some of the groundwork activities they outlined such as the "bucket" workshop (let's call it something catchier!) and the course mapping done by faculty from different departments. As the Mt. Sac folks said though, this would not be called "Professional Development" even though it would obviously count for Flex or service hours.

For me in my role- sharing with SSC workgroup, guided pathways workgroup. Thinking thru the information looking for implications to my role. For mc-compiling all the answers to our questions, summarize the info we received, reporting out campus-wide.