

Is Being Here Enough for Success?

Relevance and Importance of Wrap-around Services

Agenda

Major Themes

Is being here enough?


Provincial Context

Institutional Context

Pathways to Education (High School Aged Students)

Woodsworth College Access Programs (Post-Secondary Students)

Is there a specific concern or opportunity that has brought you to this session?



*It takes a village to
raise a child*

Nguzo Saba Principles (The Seven Principles)

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)

To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.

Provincial Context



31%

Increase in the number of students enrolling in PSE in Ontario
between 2004 & 2015

Ontario has indeed seen overall increases in post-secondary enrolment and post-secondary attainment over the past two decades, such that the province now leads not only Canada, but almost all other OECD countries in Post-Secondary Attainment (Deller et al., 2019)

Provincial Context

*“This type of growth-model approach to access is not without controversy, however, and there is evidence to suggest that these overall increases to access have not led to **equity** of access” (Deller, Kaufmann, Tamburri, 2019)*

Provincial Context

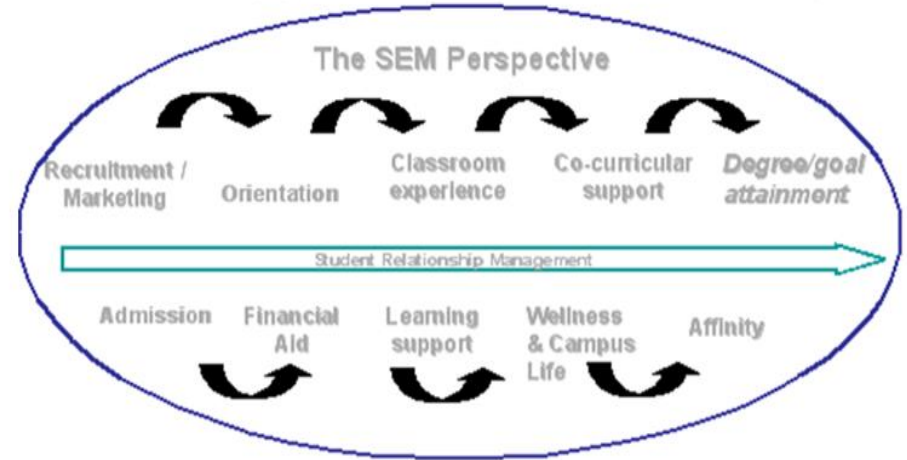
*Despite this enviable record, however, Canada still faces equity-related challenges when it comes to education access. Certain groups continue to be at-risk of not completing secondary school and of underrepresentation in postsecondary education: **students with special needs, certain ethnic and racial minorities, recent immigrants and those from lower socioeconomic status groups** (Robson, Anisef, Brown & Parekh, 2014; Finnie, Childs & Wismer, 2011)*

Institutional Context



Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM)

The Student Success Continuum
An Integrated Approach:
Recruitment, Engagement, Persistence, Performance, Completion



Lessons from Community



Pathways to Education

*A Better Future For Canada
starts with high school
graduation*

Community Response
Community Driven
Community Based

**Founded in 2001 at the Regent Park
Community Health Centre to address
educational achievement gaps in the Regent
Park/ Moss Park Communities**

56%

High School dropout rates in the community

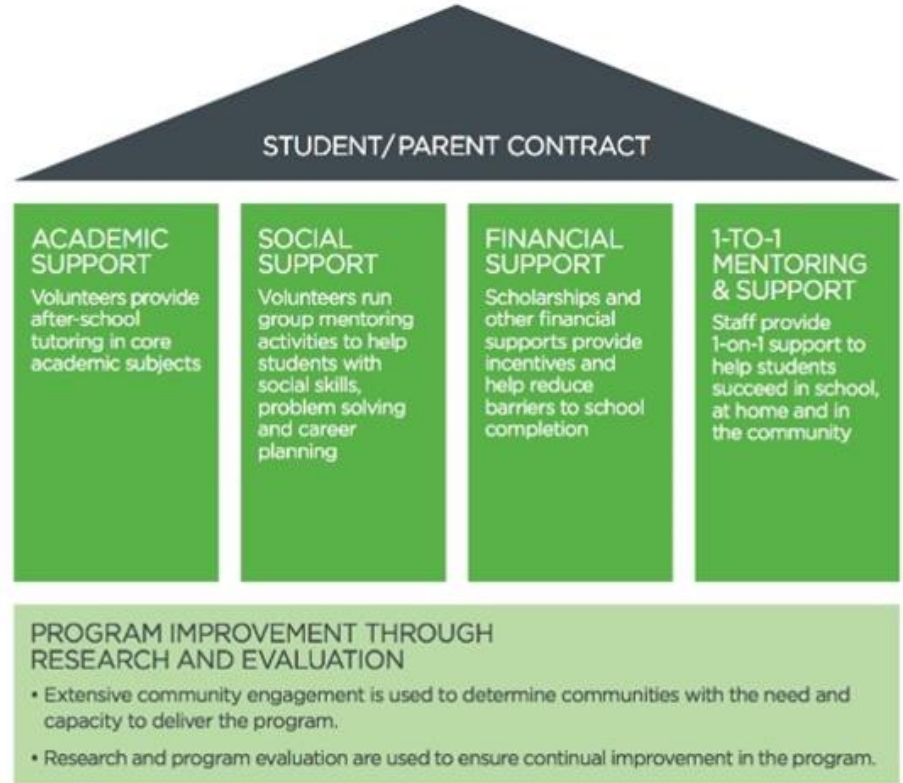
Pathways to Education - 2001 Launch!

Program launched in 2001 with a cohort of grade 9 students

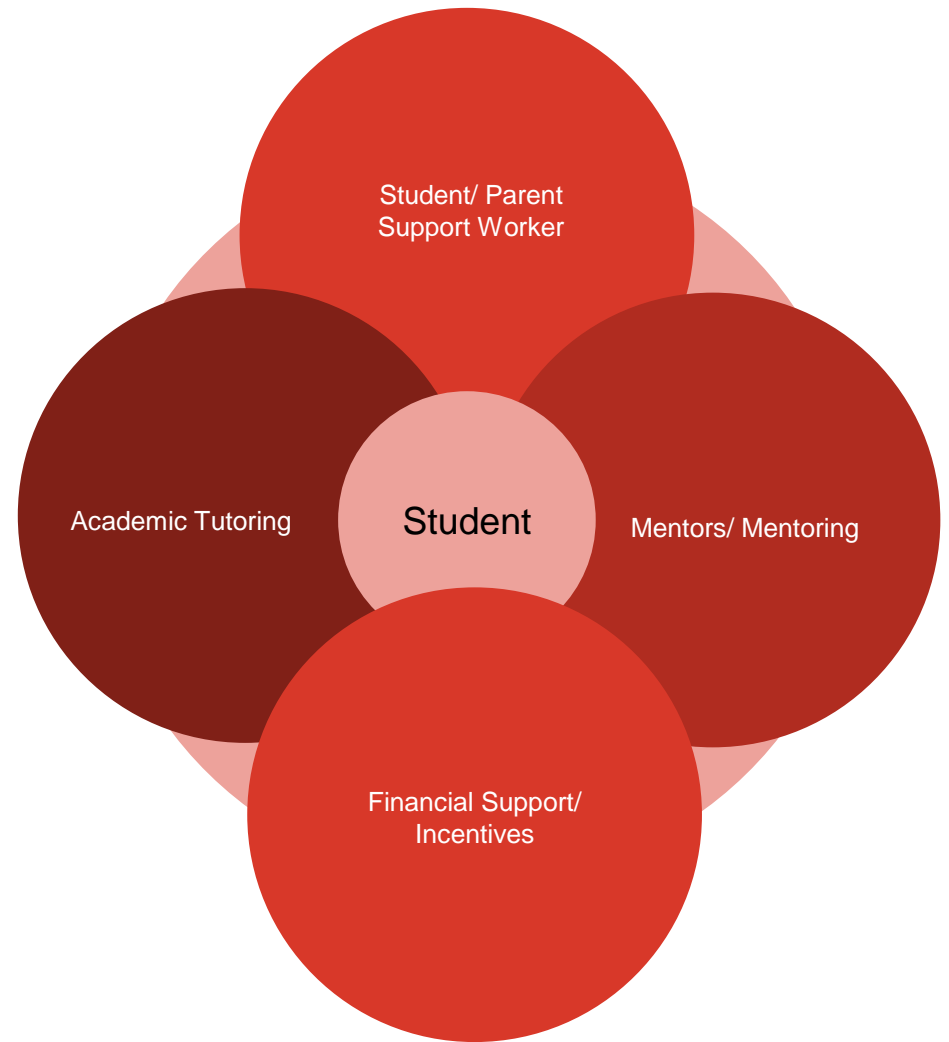
Wrap Around Supports grade 9-12 included:

- Academic
- Financial
- Social / Mentoring
- One on one

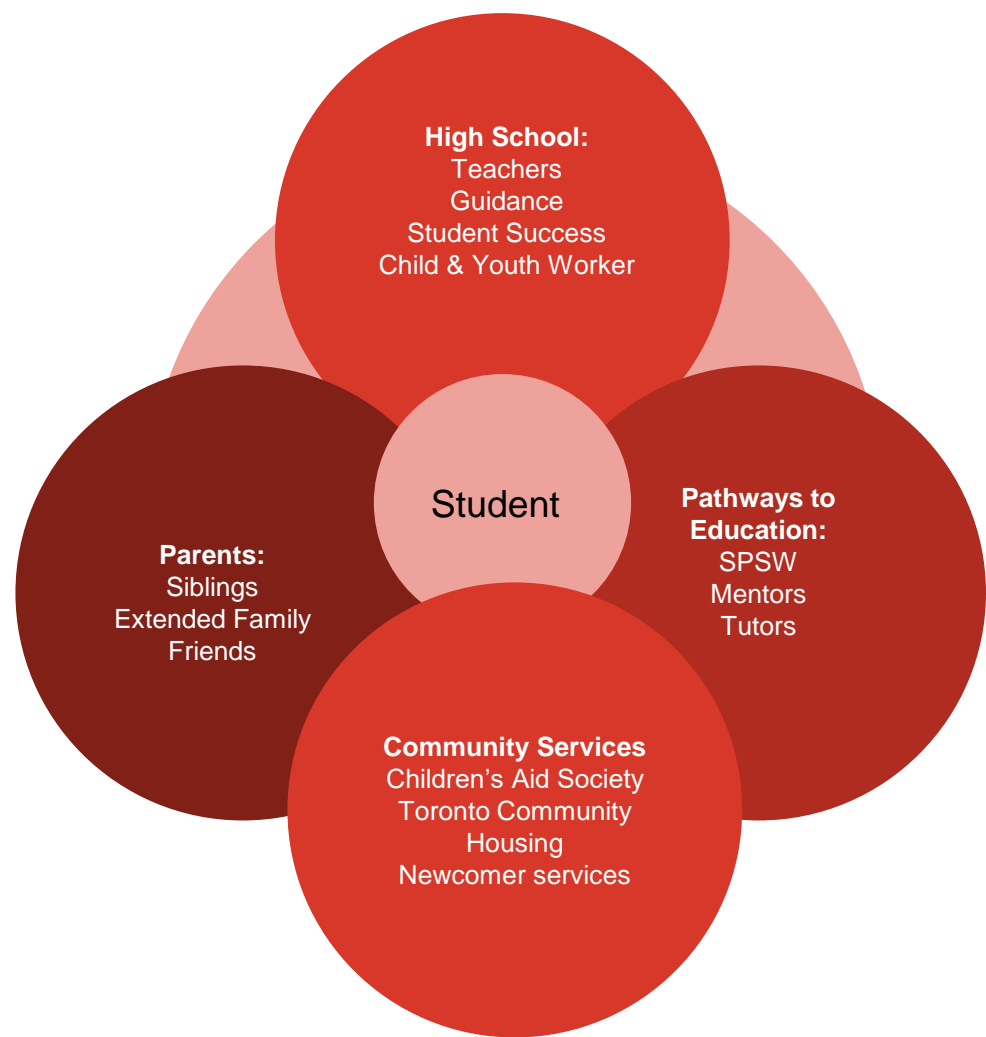
Pathways to Education - Program Pillars



Model - Macro



Model - Micro



70%

Decrease in high school dropout rates

300%

Increase in post-secondary attendance

Pathways to Education - Program Expansion

20

Locations across Canada

Ontario and Quebec having the largest proportion of Pathways sites

8

Provinces

Ontario has the largest proportion of students in the Pathways program

5,747

Students

Enrolled in the program 2016-2017

Responsive Programming - Major Themes

Relationship

- Strong bonds with caring adults
- New friendships
- **Near to peer**

Community

- Connections beyond school community
- Safe space
- **Culturally relevant and responsive**

Support

- Reliability and relatability
- Restorative
- **Advocacy**

Challenges & Opportunities


Challenges

- **Broad based student recruitment and program eligibility**
- **Succession planning - PSE Transitions**
 - Students and Parents
- **Flexibility**
- **Burnout & Boundaries**

Opportunities

- **Clearly define program eligibility**
- **Intentional Parent Engagement**
- **Plan for the unexpected**
- **Staff & volunteer wellness**

What is one/some components of this model that could be adopted into your access program/area of work?



Graduation Coaches

Ontario school boards launch graduation coach program for black students



The pilot project focused on mentoring black students runs until August before being reviewed again



[Bobby Hristova](#) · CBC News · Posted: Feb 29, 2020 5:02 AM ET | Last Updated: February 29



Michael Abraham and Chad McPherson are the first every black graduation coaches at HWDSB. They hope to connect with black youth and lead them to success. (Bobby Hristova/CBC)

Student Parent Support Worker

Facilitated Access Programs

- Support and advocacy
 - Motivating and encouraging
 - Liaison between student, family, institutions
- Monitoring attendance
- Supporting appropriate course placement
- Attending school meetings with parents

Navigator

- Support and advocacy
 - Motivating and encouraging
 - Liaison between student, institution, support
- Checking in on academic progress
- Supporting access to university resources
- Translating institutional policy and practice

Champion

Coach

Students don't know what they don't know

University of Toronto - Woodsworth College Access Programs



Woodsworth College Access Programs

Academic Bridging Program

- Access to Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Programs
- Mature student pathway
- Grants access to students with no previous university studies
- Completion of 1.0 credit toward a Faculty of Arts and Science degree program
- All supports and services available to any student and more...

Diploma to Degree Program

- Transfer partnership with three GTA colleges
- Access to Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Programs
- Greater transfer credit offering than direct entry application
- Previous studies do not prevent access to studies at U of T
- Advising partnership begins in first year of college

70%

Percentage of students admitted to the Academic Bridging Program who qualify for degree studies.

Percentage of students who register for degree-level studies upon successfully completing the program

89%

10%

Increase in success rate of students during five-year period when wraparound supports were enhanced

50%

Reduction in withdrawal rates for college transfer students under a facilitated transfer program (Diploma to Degree)

Percentage of Diploma to Degree students who successfully graduate
- matching the U of T retention rate

72%

2.87

Average Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) for a student
graduating from the Diploma to Degree Program - matching the rest of
the graduating class

Wraparound Supports



Access through admissions

- **Most mature student programs or transfer programs provide unique admission criteria only**
- **Admission and advising/support remain separate**
- **Pathways have a home in an admissions or recruitment office**
- **The relationship ends upon admission**

Wraparound Supports



At Woodsworth College:

- **Both access programs have dedicated staff who work with students from admission to graduation**
 - **Admissions advising**
 - **Academic advising**
 - **Learning Skills Strategist**
 - **On-location Accessibility Advisor**
 - **Financial aid advising**
 - **Writing Centre**
 - **Mentorship programming**

Wraparound Supports



Admission:

- Transcript reviews
- Recommendation of other pathways
- Transfer credit review
- Intake interviews for referrals

Academic advising:

- Transition information session
- Individual course enrolment meetings
- Check-ins during critical dates
- Pre-requisite advising
- Internal petitions and academic integrity processes

Wraparound Supports



Learning Skills:

- **Classroom visits**
- **Instructor collaborations**
- **Individual appointments**
- **Learning disability assessments**

Accessibility Services:

- **On-location advisor within Registrar's Office team**
- **De-stigmatizing registration**
- **Expedited processes**
- **Instructor and advisor collaborations**

Wraparound Supports



Financial Aid:

- **Commitment to fund any course taken to qualify for admission with College bursary allocation where necessary.**
- **Dedicated bursaries and scholarships for these programs.**
- **Navigation of OSAP bureaucracy and challenges**
- **Emergency funding, disability assessment**

Wraparound Supports



Writing Support:

- **Dedicated writing instructor for each Academic Bridging Program course**
- **English Language Learning reading circles**
- **Classroom visits**

Mentorship Programs:

- **Expanded mentorship initiatives to all access program students**
- **Matching first-year degree level students with upper-year students who admitted through these programs**
- **Online mentoring plus regular meetings and events during first-year**

Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges

- **Resource intensive**
- **Multiple points of connection in PSE**
- **Institutional barriers still exist**
- **Students have to do a lot, alone**

Opportunities

- **Education and capacity building**
- **Student always has a starting point**
- **Advocacy for change to PSE structures**
- **Data, reporting and success tracking**

Here are some things to consider...

- Know the strategic goals and capacity of your department/ division
- Is there flexibility built in to the planning of your access program
- Identify partners both internally and externally that can support the program
- Center student/community voices and experiences
- What is your program offering the students that is new/different? Why are they coming?

Additional Resources

Reports & Research

- **Pathways to Education Results Summary - 2018**
- **Underrepresented Students and the Transition to Post-Secondary Education: Comparing Two Toronto Cohorts, 2018**
- **Redefining Access to Postsecondary Education, Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario. 2019**
- **Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario**
- **Assessing Determinants of Academic Success for College to University Transfer, 2016**

Local Access Programs

- **U of T Woodsworth College - Access Programs**
- **University of Toronto - SEE U of T Program**
- **U of T Transitional Year Programme**
- **Ryerson University - Spanning The Gaps**
- **Centennial College - HYPE Program**
- **Humber College - Youth Transition Program**

THANK YOU!

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